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HISTORY
—OF THE—
LAWRENCE-TOWNLEY,
—AND—
CHASE-TOWNLEY
Estates in England.

—WITH—
Copious Historical and Genealogical Notes of the Lawrence, Chase, and Townley families, and much other valuable information.

—BY—
JAMES USHER,
9 Murray Street, New York City.

1883.

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P R E F A C E.

Having been employed by certain parties to ascertain whether there was such a property as the Lawrence-Townley or Chase-Townley estate in England, and whether they could recover the same, I have, with the assistance of competent and reliable associates, made a thorough and complete investigation.

This book contains the information collected by myself, and also that furnished by parties interested, with much other matter relating to the case, and will, I believe, be found to be the most extended and reliable report ever made about the so-called Lawrence-Townley or Chase-Townley estates.

I am not accustomed to write for the press, and make no pretensions to authorship, but have simply endeavored to express, in plain language, what I have collected about the subject-matter of the book.

In presenting this report, I do not mean to cast reflections upon my predecessors, especially those who have departed this life, as I have no doubt many of them, among others Mr. Carver, undertook the matter in good faith, but were unable for lack of funds, and from other reasons, to carry the case to an end; but I find it necessary to mention their names in this report, not with disrespect, but simply to present both sides of the question, and in order to give the readers an opportunity to judge for themselves.

Very respectfully,

THE AUTHOR.

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CHAPTER I.

HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION APPERTAINING TO THE LAWRENCE AND TOWNLEY ESTATE.

For years past it has been asserted and believed that there was in England a sum of money, variously estimated from three hundred to five hundred million of dollars, which belong to, and could be recovered by the lawful heirs of John Lawrence, and Mary Townley, his wife.

The origin of the family and of the fund has been at all times differently stated, but the various accounts given to me by the various claimants was that which had been obtained from statements which had been published by former delegates, and other apparently reliable sources, which I quote as follows:

WESTERN LAWRENCE-TOWNLEY ASSOCIATION.

Dayton, O., April 11th, 1874.

This circular contains all the information in our possession up to the present time, and is a *brief history* of the genealogy of the Lawrence-Townley heirs, as collected and compiled by D. B. Carver, Attorney for the heirs.

Published by authority of the officers of said association.

[Signed]

W. L. WINCHELL, *Secretary*.

A valuable estate. The Lawrence-Townley property, \$500,000,000 awaiting an owner.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ESTATE.

Mr. D. B. Carver, a prominent lawyer, and a well known authority in antiquarian studies, has been engaged for several years in compiling and tracing the pedigree of the Townley-Lawrence heirs, with the view of securing to Mr. William T. Lawrence, of Lansingburgh, New York, and others, the vast Townley estate, in land and money, in the Bank of England, valued in all at over \$500,000,000. He has associated with him Mr. George Day, a prominent lawyer of Troy, a brother of the Hon. John Day, of Montreal, counsel to the Queen, who will act as counsel and barrister with them in the prosecution of the claim in England. It appears that

Richard Townley, the ancestor of Townley of Lancashire, England, owned vast estates, which descended through several generations to Richard Townley, of Townley Hall, who married Mary, the daughter of Lord Widrington, and had two sons, and two daughters, viz.: Mary and Dorothy. Mary married John Lawrence, and Dorothy married Sir Francis Howard, afterwards Lord Effingham, who owned vast estates in Corby, including the famous Corby Castle.

John Lawrence and Mary Townley, his wife, emigrated to America about the year 1713, and died in the State of Massachusetts, leaving one son, Jonathan. Lord Effingham died without issue, and his wife became sole heir to his estate.

She died soon after, leaving her estate to Mary Townley Lawrence in America ; and by a failure of the male line of Richard Townley, his estate reverted to his daughter, Mary Townley Lawrence, and at her death it descended to her son, Jonathan Lawrence, of Walpole, Massachusetts, and in a direct line in the male issue to William T. Lawrence, of Lansingburgh, as stated above.

We called on Mr. Carver during the early part of the past week, and found him preparing to start for Boston, to obtain some additional proofs from the old records in that State. We were informed that the researches of history, and the records both in England and America, made by Mr. Carver, who has been working assiduously for many years, enable him to furnish, not only the historical record, but the genealogy of the Lawrences in England and America. They originated from Robert Lawrence, of Lancashire, England, who was born in Rome A. D. 1150, and emigrated to Lancashire, Lancaster Co., England.

He was the earliest ancestor of the name of Lawrence in England, and was an officer attending his sovereigns, Richard Cœur de Lion and Richard I., and engaged in the crusade to the Holy Land, where he so distinguished himself in the siege of Acre, and in taking the island of Cyprus and the city of Acon in Palestine, and at Jerusalem, when it was being taken by the infidels, that he was knighted Sir Richard Lawrence.

In addition he also received from his sovereign a grant of Ashton Hall, and obtained for his coat-of-arms Argent, a cross ; Raguly Gules, A. D. 1191. The arms of Sir Robert of Ashton Hall, conferred upon him by Richard Cœur de Lion, were also those of Lancashire ; also he beareth ermine, a cross raguly, gules by the name of Lawrence of Lancashire.

Proceeding with the successive generations of ancestry, we have in order of time the first generation in Knight Sir Robert Lawrence of Ashton Hall ; and in the same order in the male line of descent (that is, the oldest male in each family), from Sir Robert Lawrence, second, who suc-

ceeded his father, and whose titles of landed estates, with the several coats-of-arms conferred upon him, were inherited under the law by his son, who then became Sir Robert Lawrence, of Ashton Hall, and so we follow in the succeeding generations of Lawrence in England, down to 1690. Here we start in the genealogy of the name of Townley, of Townley Hall. Sir Richard Townley, the ancestor of Mary Townley, who married John Lawrence, originated from Sir Richard Townley, of Townley, in 1566, who owned landed estates at Townley, in Lancashire, and other places in England, which descended through several generations in the male line to Richard Townley of Townley Hall, who married Mary, the daughter of William, the late Lord Widrington. She was the only survivor to the estate of her father, and before her marriage with Richard Townley entered into an agreement with him by deed, recorded in the records of marriage contracts at York, whereby she retained all the estates of her father as her sole and separate estate, and subject to her disposal. By the marriage of Richard Townley with Mary Widrington they had, in course of time, three sons and two daughters, viz.: Richard, who died young; John, George, Mary and Dorothy Townley. Mary Townley married John Lawrence, and Dorothy married Sir Francis Howard, afterwards Lord Effingham, the owner and proprietor of Corby Castle, in Corby.

He died without issue, leaving his wife Dorothy the sole owner of his estate. John Lawrence and Mary Townley, his wife, and their son, emigrated to America, and located in what was then known as New Plymouth, in the State of Massachusetts.

Richard Townley, the father of Mary Lawrence, died, and his will was proved and recorded at Doctors' Commons, in London, October 10th, 1735, leaving his widow surviving. The latter died in 1740, leaving her vast estates in land, jewels, plate and money in the Bank of England, by will to her two daughters, Mary Lawrence and her heirs in America, and Dorothy Howard, of Corby Castle, England, and to their heirs, and at their disposal. Dorothy Howard died in 1757 without issue, and willed her estates, both real and personal, to her sister Mary Lawrence, in America, and to her heirs forever. These two estates at that time, for want of an heir in the name of Mary Townley Lawrence, were administered upon by the Government of England, and all the landed estates are now held and rented by the government, and the rents, as well as the money, jewels and plate, of Mary Widrington Townley and Dorothy Howard, are deposited in the Bank of England, drawing interest at three per cent. a year on the money so deposited. The entire estate, both real and personal, is thus held subject to the recovery by the true heirs in the descent from John Lawrence and Mary Townley his wife. By the laws of England, as provided in 7 and 8 Victoria, Chap. 66, Sec. 4,

"An alien may now take and hold every species of personal property (except chattels), real as fully as if he were a natural born subject, including those acquired by testamentary dispositions; he may be an executor or administrator, and as to personal property, he may be a trustee in like manner as natural subjects."

By an earlier statute, 11 and 12 William III., Chap. 6, Sec. 6,

"All persons, including naturalized aliens, may inherit and make their title by descent from any of their ancestors, lineal or collateral, although their father, or mother, or other ancestor, by, from, through or under whom they derive their pedigree, were born out of the British realm."

By a failure of the male line of the brothers and their descendants in the death of Charles Townley, in 1813, the estate of Townley Hall and other estates of Richard Townley passed to Mary Townley, the wife of John Lawrence, in America, and her heirs; so that the proof to one of the estates takes title to the several estates so willed to Mary Townley Lawrence and her heirs in America. Jonathan Lawrence, the eldest son of John and Mary Lawrence, was commissioned as a captain, June 11, 1746, by William Shirley, then Governor of the Colony now the present State of Massachusetts. Captain Lawrence resided at Rohoboth, Mass., at the time he was so commissioned, and went to Nova Scotia in the war between the French and Indians against Great Britain. He afterwards, in 1752, 1753, and 1754, resided in Walpole, Mass., and in the year 1755 removed to Nova Scotia, where he died, leaving his family—his father and mother having died near New Bedford, Mass.—in poverty and obscurity. Being in constant war with the Indians at that time, he knew not of the wealth in England, or if he did, had no means to go there and obtain it. But the grandson, Jonathan John Lawrence, having the two inherited names, went to England, in 1814, leaving his wife and two children in Nova Scotia, and succeeded Charles Townley in the Townley estate, and finally dying in possession of Townley Hall, in 1816. He left a will by which the estates have descended to his succeeding generations. In the direct line in the male issue is William T. Lawrence, of Lansingburgh, N. Y., who was born Sept. 10th, 1812.

Mr. Carver has compiled the genealogy and historical record of the Lawrences, both in England and America, from 1150 down to the present time. Also the genealogy of the Townleys, from 1566 down to 1813, at which time the descendants in the male line of Townley became extinct, and the estates reverted to the heirs of Mary Townley. In his researches he includes the genealogy, wills and records of the estate of Dorothy Howard Effingham and Mary Widrington, of York, the maternal ancestor, through whom is claimed the several estates known as the Lawrence and Townley estates. This record has been continued in the various New England States from the town records of marriages, births

and deaths, and records of landed estates, and includes the copies of wills and deeds for two hundred years and upwards, and enables him to compile his case from record evidence. *It is also due to say that under the laws of the United States, that there are also collateral heirs in the Lawrence families in America* other than William T. Lawrence, *who also inherit this estate.* In Mr. Carver's researches into the antiquity of the Lawrence and Townley families, he is in possession of many old and curious documents, some of them nearly two hundred years old. Messrs. Carver and Day expect to have all their papers ready by June 1st, when they will sail for Europe; and they hope within a short time thereafter to be able to place in Mr. Lawrence's possession (who is an humble laboring man in Lansingburgh) his distributive proportion, with due collateral heirs, to the vast estate now in the hands of the English government. Not a single link in the chain, as perfected by Mr. Carver, is missing, and the now humble family will, it is thought, soon be in possession of his portion of an estate rivaling in its value the wealth of the Indies. Among the romantic incidents connected with the family efforts to reach the estate now in question—and there are many—is the following: In 1774 Jonathan Lawrence, Jr., grandson of John and Mary Lawrence, then a man of thirty-five, reared like his father in the rough ways of sailor and rover, conceived it necessary to go to England to secure his rights by proving his loyalty. He was a British subject, and partly from dread of the revolution, as well as with a certain undefined notion of his inheritance, for which he was, in the main, indifferent, he left Nova Scotia, brought his wife and two sons to her Massachusetts home and set sail for England, but was shipwrecked and reported to have been lost at sea.

He was, however, picked up by a vessel bound for the East Indies and carried to its destination.

It was three years later when he reached England, and in his sailor-like listlessness—especially while the war was in active progress—he seems to have made no effort to communicate with the family in America. Upon the declaration of peace, however, he determined to return to America to look after them. On his arrival he learned that his wife, supposing him to have been lost at sea, had married again, and had removed to the western part of the State, having children by this second husband; and, without communicating with her, he returned by the same ship which had brought him over, succeeding, however, in gaining possession of his youngest son, whom he now took with him.

Other years of silence rolled by, during which this son, still a minor, sickened and died, while his oldest son grew up in the family of his constructive father in America. Jonathan now (1814) seventy-five years

of age, wrote to his eldest son, mentioned above, urging him to come to him and assist in the care of his affairs.

This son was prevented from so doing by a painful disease, of which he soon afterward died, and Jonathan himself died 1816, devising his property to his eldest son, who, dying while his sons were mere lads, left his papers in the hands of one who allowed the young heirs to grow up in ignorance of their rights, and eventually originated claims to their prejudice, the same being at one time apparently on the high road to success, with such plausibility that movements of considerable magnitude were excited among the English tenants upon the estate to obtain speculative advantages. The presumptive heirs to this estate are in humble life, and dependent upon others to prosecute their claims, consequently several associations, as stated below, have been formed in regions where branches of the family are found, none of which, however, have hitherto completed the documentary testimony involved, or reached a suitable preparation for instituting legal proceedings. The interest which will now be awakened by the proceedings commenced will by no means be confined to the kindred most concerned.

LAWRENCE-TOWNLEY ASSOCIATION,

Dayton, O., June 1, 1873.

As a person interested in the Lawrence-Townley estate, your attention is called to the fact that there has been a decision of the English Court of Chancery, by which three-fourths of the sum of \$380,000,000 has been awarded to the American heirs of Mary Townley. This vast property comes from Sir R. Townley, living about A. D. 1600 at Townley Hall, Lancashire, England. Mary Townley was heir to this immense estate. \$260,000,000 has been awarded to her heirs in America, and, as one of her heirs, you are interested in the investigations of the following questions :

1. Who are the legal heirs of Mary Townley-Lawrence ?
2. What is necessary to do to establish said title or claim ?
3. Can *you establish* your claim, or on what proof do you base your claim ?

We wish to impress upon you that no one but you can furnish your family history, consequently, if you do not do it, it will never be done.

This is all that is wanting now. Will you do it? No other person has as much interest in *your* case as *yourself*. By furnishing us all the evidence you can obtain, as soon as possible, we may be able to supply any wanting *links* in your chain from other sources, but we cannot do this without your help. Please forward to us, as soon as possible, a full family history of your ancestry as far back as you can give it—names, dates, etc., *not supposed*, but what you can *prove*—and we will then place

them, with others, in the hands of attorneys to arrange. Will you unite with us and give all the aid possible, and there is no doubt about the successful result? It is a big undertaking, and can only be accomplished by united effort.

If you do not desire to push your claim any longer, please notify "W. L. Winchell, Corresponding Secretary of Lawrence-Townley Association, Dayton, Ohio," so that there may be no delay waiting for your proof. It may be a fortune to you to attend at once to this matter, but you alone must decide as to what you can or will do.

Respectfully,
 (Signed,) W. L. WINCHELL,
 J. D. FOX,
 J. Q. A. COFFEEN,
Executive Committee.

Extracts from a small book published by William T. Lawrence, of Troy, New York, 1875. This book contains statements of the most positive character made by some of the most eminent men in the legal profession in this State.

Jonathan Lawrence was born in Manchester, England, A. D. 1711. Jonathan, Jr., or Jonathan John, was born in Walpole August 23d, 1739. Lebbeus was born in Nova Scotia in 1766. William T. Lawrence was born in Lansingburgh, N. Y., in 1808, and at this writing still lives. Of all the births and marriages referred to in the above genealogy, official records are found in the town books except in case of the birth of the last, viz., William T. Lawrence, and this lack of official record is supplied by family records and affidavits of living witnesses:

William T. Lawrence's ancestors Englishmen.

From the foregoing we notice the fact that Jonathan, Sr., was born in England, was a British subject, and died a pensioner on the crown, and lies buried in British soil. His son, Jonathan, Jr., though born in Walpole, was still a British subject. He was born thirty-seven years prior to the American revolution. In early life he went to England, where he spent most of his days, and finally died and was buried there.

His son, Lebbeus, was born in Nova Scotia ten years before the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Jonathan, Jr., in 1810, made a will in favor of his son, "Lebbeus, and his heirs," and this brings us to the fact that the present claimant is the only person in the chain who was not a regular British subject a part of his life. William T. Lawrence is American born—was born in Lansingburgh in 1808.

The fact that so much of the history of this family has taken place on British soil, accounts for the completeness of the official records for so many years, as the British government is known to make and preserve

all such records with the strictest fidelity. It is only the claimant who is the last of the line that was American born; and as before stated, the record in his case is amply supplied by family records and living witnesses.

This family was advertised for in the *London Times* in 1846.

In the year 1846 there appeared an advertisement in the *London Times* calling for one John Lawrence, who had married a Mary Townley and settled in Massachusetts. His family, it claimed, afterward went to Nova Scotia, and, further, he was one of three brothers who came over here, whose names were John, Thomas, and Daniel.

This advertisement describes this identical family. Notice the coincidence in the advertisement and the facts in the history of this family. The first coincidence consists in the names given—"John Lawrence, who married Mary Townley." The second consists in the fact that the family did move from Massachusetts to Nova Scotia. The third consists in the fact that John Lawrence, who married Mary Townley, was one of the three brothers, John, Thomas, and Daniel.

Concerning the other two brothers mentioned in the advertisement, namely, Thomas and Daniel, their names are interwoven in the history of this family. Daniel was killed by the Indians, at Old Brookfield, Massachusetts.

Thomas was living in 1741, as he did that year execute a warranty deed to Jonathan Lawrence, then of the province of Annapolis Royal. The land sold to Jonathan is in Wrentham, Mass. Said deed is still in the family, as is another executed by his brother-in-law, Daniel Robbins, of Walpole, Mass. These deeds have come down through the successive generations of the family to the present William T. Lawrence, and are valuable evidence in proof of the identity of the family called for by the advertisement.

Copy of a circular sent out by Jasiel Lawrence, 261 Broadway, New York City.

£28,000,000.

Lawrence-Townley Estate, England.

It is now certain that Jasiel Lawrence, of Watson, N. Y., is the sole heir to this immense estate. The Lawrence family, in different parts of the country, have expended large sums of money in investigating their claims to this estate—but in vain—all of them having failed to prove their heirship to this fortune, as the pure blood of Mary Townley—through whom this estate is derived—did not flow in their veins. This Mary Townley was married in England to John Lawrence, the ancestor of the present Jasiel Lawrence. This marriage between John Lawrence and Mary Townley is found in the English records—they em-

igrated to this country in 1716. The said John Lawrence and Mary Townley—his wife—had only one son, Jonathan, who was the great-grandfather of Jasiel Lawrence, the present heir-at-law to this estate. This Jonathan Lawrence married Hannah Robbins, of Walpole, Mass., 1738, by whom he had two sons and two daughters; the names of the sons were Jonathan Jr., and William.

Jonathan Lawrence, Jr., was the eldest son and next heir to the estate, according to the laws of England. He was born in Walpole, Mass., 1739. He married Miss Rachel Smith, of Easton, Mass., in 1762. This fact is proved by the town records of Easton and by other official documents in the possession of the present Jasiel Lawrence. This Jonathan Lawrence, Jr., and Rachel, his wife, had two sons, Libbeus and Jasiel. Libbeus was born in Nova Scotia, 1765, and died in Lansingburgh, N. Y., in 1818, leaving one son, John A. Lawrence, who died in Troy, N. Y., June 10th, 1857, leaving one son, Norman J. Lawrence, who died in 1862, without heirs; he was a soldier in the United States army, and was shot at Racoon Ford, while driving an ambulance. This closes the line of heirship of Libbeus Lawrence.

Jasiel Lawrence, Sr., brother of Libbeus, was born in Easton, Mass., in 1772, and died in Durhamville, Oneida County, N. Y., 1842.

Jasiel Lawrence, Jr., of Watson, Lewis County, N. Y., born Sept. 30th, 1808, oldest surviving son, is heir to the estate, according to the laws of England. He has been for several years searching for this testimony, and is now able to prove, beyond doubt, that he is the legal heir to the estate. The legal documents to prove the above statements, certified to by the proper officials, are now in the possession of Jasiel Lawrence, and have been officially examined and certified to by Governor Fenton, of New York, and Secretary Seward and other eminent lawyers, and the British Legation at Washington. The Court of Chancery of England, ordered by the House of Commons, February 23, 1865, "That the Lawrence-Townley estate remains yet unclaimed, and as yet subject to a claimant," that on the books are marked, "Heirs gone to America." That the Court passed the following decree: "That the estate belongs to the heirs of Mary Townley, who, having married a Lawrence, settled in America, and that her descendants are the legal heirs to the said estate." Mr. Jasiel Lawrence, being a man of moderate means, has, at the suggestion of his friends, adopted the following plan of raising funds to prosecute his claim in England. It is necessary to employ the best legal talent in that country.

He offers for a small sum, a share for one thousand dollars, payable at the bank from the first funds received from the estate.

REFERENCES:

A. COBURN, Attorney at Law, Utica, N. Y.

A. M. MILLS, Esq., Newport, N. Y.

R. EARL, Judge of the Court of Appeals, Herkimer, N. Y.

HON. FRANCIS KERNAN, Utica, N. Y.

JOHN H. MARTINDALE, Attorney at Law, late Attorney-General of the State of N. Y., and Military Governor of D. C., Rochester, N. Y.

RATES OF SHARES IN THE LAWRENCE-TOWNLEY ESTATE.

One-fourth share costing \$ 5,	will entitle the holder to \$	250.
One-half “ “ 10,	“ “ “	500.
One whole “ “ 20,	“ “ “	1,000.
Three whole shares costing 50,	“ “ “	3,000.
Seven “ “ “ 100,	“ “ “	7,000.
One hundred “ “ 1,000,	“ “ “	100,000.

LAWRENCE SCRIP.

No. 537.

Whereas, it is believed that John A. Lawrence, of Troy, N. Y., is heir at law to a large estate in England, called the “Townley Estate;”

And, whereas said Lawrence is desirous of recovering possession thereof, and in order to accomplish the same is obliged to raise money, by issuing scrips, which are to be the first lien on said estate;

Now therefore, for and in consideration of — dollars to me in hand paid, I hereby agree to pay the bearer of this scrip — dollars out of the first moneys received from said estate, and I do further agree to expend said moneys received for said scrips for recovery of said estate.

Dated Troy, January 30, 1856.

(Signed)

JOHN A. LAWRENCE.

A copy of an advertisement which appeared in the New York Herald of March 17th, 1875.

“The attention of the heirs of Lebbeus Lawrence is called to a published report of a decree of Chancery, calling for the heirs of Lebbeus Lawrence in America, and reading further as follows: “And it is further adjudged and decreed that all of the landed estates, money, plate, jewels, personal effects, and chattels, real, owned, or inherited by Mary Townley Lawrence, deceased, together with all the accumulations thereon, be and hereby are adjudged to belong to Lebbeus Lawrence and his heirs forever. Heirs, or parties believing themselves to be such, should furnish their genealogy to C. W. Lawton, Station G., New York, or R. J. Lawton, Princess Street, Manchester, England.

Copy of a Letter from Norman J. Lawrence.

Troy, Jan. 4th, 1856.

DEAR FRIENDS:

I have returned to my home after an absence of thirteen weeks, and I now write to let you know what success we had when we arrived in Liverpool; we went to the American House, which was kept by one Mr. Davis, whom we found had been a juryman in the Court of Chancery for seven years. This we found out the next morning, and thought it favorable for us.

We then consulted him in regard to a lawyer; he took us to Mr. Huntley. We made known to him our business; he said that we had had our trouble for our pains, for the heirs were all dead, and that the property would soon go into the hands of the government. I felt sick at heart. He then asked to what family we belonged. Father went on to state our family genealogy; when he came to the name of Lebbeus, his father, Mr. Huntley, started, and said, is Lebbeus your father's name? Yes; I have got that name in one of our books. He went in another room and brought out a book, turning to a place, pointed to the name of Lebbeus Lawrence. He said there was a letter written to him (Lebbeus) in 1814, and receiving no answer they supposed he must be dead, and that was why he said the heirs were all dead. He told us our Jonathan Lawrence came from America, and landed in England three years after, staying in England four years. He went back to America, but did not stay long, and returned again, not bringing any of his family with him. At last he was taken sick, and in the year 1814 he had a letter written to his son to come and attend to his property, but receiving no answer, he thought he must be dead, and in the year 1816 he (Jonathan Lawrence) died.

In the year 1827 the decision was made, which was, if the heirs of Jonathan Lawrence or Lebbeus Lawrence came and claimed the estate before the lease was out, it should go to the heirs (it was leased long before the decision for three lives), and we are on the last life, so you see we are in time yet.

The next week we showed him our papers; he said he was *surprised*; we were the *heirs*.

If we could get the letter we could get the property. Father says that he can get it, or an affidavit that his father received such a letter (which the lawyer said would do as well).

He says we must get all our papers signed by the Secretary of State, for we go to the highest power in England, and they recognize none but the highest; and as it would cost more to stay in England until we could send our papers to America and get them signed (and then it

might not be done right), we concluded to come and do it ourselves, so here we are. We went to Manchester, and was on the old home-
stead. The piece of land lying in and around Manchester is eight miles
square.

There are two other pieces of land—one in Sheffield, one in Gloucester—besides a large amount of money in the Bank of England.

Now, my intention is to get this letter, then to Washington and get our papers signed, then to Boston and get the precise time that Jonathan Lawrence sailed for England, then to Halifax to get the Governor to sign the papers of my father's birth, and of Jonathan Lawrence receiving a grant of a tract of land; from there go to England. When I got home I found \$50,000 from you, and some powers of attorney, for which I was very glad, and think in a short time you will receive the benefit of it, for I am determined to push this matter through, and with the help of God, and the assistance of our friends, we hope to get it. When we got home we were quite sick from the roughness of the voyage; we had been on the go ever since we left, fourteen weeks ago; we have been home one week, and now feel quite refreshed, and shall commence our journey next week. The reason of Jonathan Lawrence's absence for three years after leaving America before reaching England, is that he was wrecked and was picked up by a vessel, and taken to the Indies, and from there he went to England. Please to write as soon as you receive this letter, for we would like to hear from you before we go. Our love to all.

Yours with respect,

NORMAN J. LAWRENCE.

Additional Documents concerning this Estate and Family.

STATE OF NEW YORK, }
COUNTY OF CORTLAND, } ss. :
TOWN OF TRUXTON. }

Anthony C. West, being duly sworn, says that he is 77 years of age and upwards, and that he resides in the town of Truxton and county of Cortland and State of New York, and that deponent was well acquainted with Lebbeus Lawrence, who died at Lansingburgh in the year 1818, and that the said Lebbeus Lawrence was the son of Jonathan Lawrence, Jr., and when deponent knew him, the said Lebbeus, he lived in Lansingburgh in the said State of New York; that some time in the year 1814, and deponent thinks in the latter part of September in said year, deponent received a letter from the post-master at the town of Grafton; said letter was addressed to the said Lebbeus Lawrence, to be delivered by deponent to the said Lebbeus Lawrence, and that said letter was from England, as appeared by the post-mark thereon; and that said deponent opened said letter and read it, and then sent the said letter to Lebbeus

Lawrence, the son of Jonathan Lawrence, Jr.; said letter was dated in England, and signed by Jonathan Lawrence, father of said Lebbeus Lawrence; Jonathan Lawrence was then in England, as deponent was informed and verily believed; and deponent further says he well remembers the substance and contents of said letters, and that the same was in substance and effect as follows : That said Jonathan Lawrence, Jr., requested the said Lebbeus Lawrence to come to England and attend to the settlement and collection of said estate and his business there; further deponent saith not.

(Signed)

ANTHONY C. WEST.

Subscribed and sworn before me, }
this 22d day of Nov., 1870. }

H. W. Annis,
Witness.

J. B. HOLAHAN,
Justice of the Peace.

Copies of Letters from J. Richardson, Barrister, Liverpool, England.

Liverpool, August 30th, 1856.

DEAR SIR :

Messrs. John A. Lawrence and Son having consulted me as to the course to be pursued as to the beneficial interest or claim, under the title of "Estates of Townley and Lawrence," of this country, I beg to state that, according to the documents produced by them and other evidence of titles since produced here, such as wills, and also pedigrees, together with armorial bearings, crest, description, etc., the titles seem to hang together, as a link or chain, as to the descent direct from the ancient families above named. A great deal is to be done in furtherance of their intended views, before the claim can be established. It is, therefore, very necessary that sufficient funds be raised to defray such expense. For my own part I can carry the same on at a percentage, and employ all necessary means to carry out their case, and when such funds are afforded, I feel confident of success. You will receive this, enclosed by Norman J. Lawrence, in to-morrow's mail, and you can enclose any communication to me through him, as I, from letters I have seen from you to him, wherein you wished to know as to the progress made in the business, will say, I am sure, Mr. Lawrence is doing all in his power for the general interest of the family.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

To WM. GAY, Esq.

J. RICHARDSON.

Liverpool, October 3d, 1856.

DEAR SIR :

At the request of Messrs. Lawrence and Son, I beg to state that, in the first instance, so far as every enquiry goes, and the perseverance

already gone to, as to the "*Townley or Lawrence Estate*," it is very likely to be prosperous. The estate is here, and no doubt obtainable. And as to the proofs, which are already in being, there is every reason to believe that the estate left to *Mary Townley*, who married *John Lawrence*, and was the mother of *Jonathan Lawrence*, who married *Hannah Robbins*, is the true party to whom the *Townley Estate* falls, and that the next heir under *Mary* is entitled. Then it must follow that the heirs under that estate *are all dead*. Then again, after such being the case, Mr. John A. Lawrence, being the only representative of such an *estate*, must be and is the only present descendant, and consequently will eventually recover the property available, whatever that may be. Nevertheless, it will require both *money* and *perseverance* to succeed. There has been so many claims as to this property, all of which have failed, that now it is likely to be recovered by the present, which does appear to be the real and right legal claim. Understanding as I do, and according to the evidence produced and facts certified, I feel satisfied as to the claim that John A. Lawrence has. No doubt that, by pushing the matter as to the estate on a vested interest, it will be found that the said John A. Lawrence, or his heirs, executors or administrators, will be his next of kin, and take the whole of whatever the estate may be. With these remarks, I beg to say that all matters may be considered, and that you may agree as to the course to be pursued as to the future events.

I am, sir, yours most obediently,

J. RICHARDSON,

WM. FLANDRAU, ESQ.

Of Firm of Huntley & Richardson.

COPY OF RECORD TAKEN FROM THE FAMILY BIBLE OF LEBBEUS LAWRENCE.

<i>Births.</i>	
Lebbeus Lawrence	born Dec. 28, 1765.
Sylvia Ford	" Aug. 22, 1781.
Rachel L. Lawrence	" Sept. 22, 1799.
John A. Lawrence	" Dec. 29, 1801.
Laura Lawrence	" Dec. 29, 1803.
Harriet Lawrence	" Dec. 10, 1806.
WILLIAM T. LAWRENCE	" Sept. 10, 1808.
Mary Ann Lawrence	" April 9, 1810.
Hannah Lawrence	" Feb. 22, 1812.
Timothy Lawrence	" Dec. 29, 1813.
Henry Lawrence	" Nov. 25, 1814.
Julia Ann Lawrence	" Dec. 29, 1817.

Deaths.

Lebbeus Lawrence	died	Oct.	25, 1818.
Sylvia Lawrence	"	Feb.	5, 1833.
John A. Lawrence	"	July	1, 1858.

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of Bible record.

JOHN HIGGINS,
Notary Public, Waterford, N. Y.

LETTERS OF FRANCIS KNIVETON.

When Jasiel Lawrence presented his claim on the fraudulent representation that the heirs of Lebbeus Lawrence were all dead, Mr. Francis Kniveton, who lived on the estate, learning the fact and knowing the weight of the evidence, at once came to this country to buy an interest in the estate. After he arrived he received, through his friend Isaac Simpson, of Montreal, the following cable dispatches :

"Montreal Telegraph Co. To Francis Kniveton, Watertown, N. Y. The estate is awarded to Jasiel Lawrence; amount not known by this cable dispatch ; you will get it in the next ; another cable dispatch in a few days.
ISAAC SIMPSON."

"Sept. 12, 1870. To Francis Kniveton, Watertown, N. Y.: The exact amount of the real and personal estate is estimated at one hundred and one million pounds sterling. Buy all the bonds you can ; give a good figure for them. The rentals will be paid on the 10th day of October next. Get your papers properly made out that you hold against Holloway. I would advise you to go to England as soon as you can. I received this dispatch late on Saturday night. ISAAC SIMPSON."

WATERTOWN, N. Y., Sept. 12, 1870.

JOHN M. LAWRENCE, Esq.:

DEAR SIR : On receipt of this, will you inform me if you are a brother of one Jasiel Lawrence, Esq., of this State; if so, if you are aware that the Lawrence-Townley estate of England has been awarded by the honorable Court of Chancery, London, England, to the said brother, Jasiel Lawrence? At the same time, have you at any time requested any member of your family relations to assign any portion of your interest in the said estate for a consideration of money advanced to your brother, Jasiel Lawrence, Esq., or at any time given your sanction for your brother to make over or assign any portion of your interest in the said Lawrence estate? Are you also aware your brother is in England, or supposed to be, at the present time? Your reply on receipt of this will much oblige,

Dear sir, yours most truly,

F. KNIVETON.

An abstract of a Letter written by the late Dr. T. C. Abraham, of West Troy, N. Y.

January 30th, 1878.

DEAR FRIEND:

With great pleasure do I answer your kind letter, just received. You wish to know if I thought there was an estate in England to settle. I am confident there is, and also I know that the American heirs can claim it.

About eighteen years ago I saw in an English paper that the Bank of England had finished their bank books examination (every few years), publicly crediting those who had money therein, and their calling in that paper for the heirs. There is every reason to believe that the estate left by Mary Townley, who married John Lawrence, and was the mother of Jonathan Lawrence, who married Hannah Robbins, is the true party to whom the Townley estate falls, and that the next heir under Mary is entitled. Then it must follow that the heirs under that estate are all dead. Then again, after such being the case, Mr. Lawrence being the only representative of such an estate, must be, and is the only present descendant, and consequently will recover the property. Nevertheless, it will require both money and perseverance to succeed. There have been so many claims to this property, all of which have failed, that now it is likely to be recovered by the present, who does appear to be the real and rightful claimants.

Understanding as I do, and according to the evidence produced, and facts certified, I feel satisfied as to the claim that Mr. Lawrence has. No doubt, by pushing the matter, as to the estate, on a vested interest, heirs of Mary T. Lawrence, of America, to present their claims for adjudication for 30,000,000 of dollars, then making over \$60,000,000 in cash, besides diamonds, silver plate, and jewels, put there by her mother for her on interest in her will, when she died her father's land went to the sons, but they died without heirs, leaving no one to claim it in England. The English Government wanted the land to keep for themselves, but their own laws gave it to his children in America, or elsewhere. So after thirty years they decided it hers, and then called for her heirs from America. I saw it in that English paper; also a friend of mine in Albany saw it in the English Court Records himself. He is a reliable man. The heirs called meetings. I went to New York to attend; they sent two men to England with the claims; they returned home, but gave us no satisfaction, but built houses and lived in fine style afterward. They were no doubt bought off.

They should have been heirs and have an interest in it themselves to do justice to us. Mr. Carver is a good lawyer, but no heir. He appears very gentlemanly indeed. Mr. W. T. Lawrence, of Lansingburgh, N. Y., has been to England to give his affidavits there as the oldest heir here.

I have seen him since his return, and he says as old as he is, he expects to see himself and his enjoy it very soon; he is sure of getting it, and further said that he intended to go to Europe again soon.

THE LATEST NEWS.

Abstract of Col. James F. Jacques' Letter, as published in the "Daily Ontario," Canada.

A letter has been received from Col. Jacques, dated London, October 8, 1879, stating that he had just returned to London from a tour of inspection of the estates known as Townley Hall, Howard estate, and Widdrington estate, and found over thirty thousand acres of improved lands, and city and village property, therefore yielding all a large revenue. That the three estates above named are lying in the counties of Cumberland, Durham, and Lancashire. That no claimant or owner has been on either of them during the knowledge of the oldest of the inhabitants living near them. And that the best barristers and legal advisers there advise him to enter and take possession of these estates at once, which can be done by the authority of Magna Charta. Once in possession of these lands, which includes the rentals, money, plate and jewels will follow as a matter of course. There is no one to oppose us now, and if any appear on the scene hereafter, they must eject us. To do this they must produce a better claim than we have, which no man on earth can do. This is fully determined: they mean to move on to victory certain. They mean to make no mistake. He also states that the Chancery Docket being clear the first of January, 1879, it will be again clear on the first of January, A. D., 1880, our case included.

A Copy of the Letter of Isaac Lawrence, the Delegate who was sent to London in 1856.

GARDINER, Maine, June 24, 1856.

MR. LAWRENCE.

SIR: Yours of the 20th is come to hand, and after reading its contents, will proceed to give you a history of the whole of my mission. I proceeded to London, and then went to St. Albans, to obtain, if possible, the marriage certificate of John Lawrence to ELIZABETH TOWNLEY, and after all my search in St. Albans, hunting up all the old church records, I found in 1743, September 14, the records were burnt on that day with the building, and could get no trace of the marriage. I then went to Doctors Commons to see about the property. I then found that John Townley, the father of Elizabeth, made his will in 1616, and he gave this daughter Elizabeth a large fortune. I have got a copy of this will; it is supposed that this party came to this country in 1635, and settled in Watertown, Mass. In 1636, in August, John Townley revised his will again, and he gives his property to his niece, one-half to his wife, and the rest to Catherine Townley, and leaves the rest of the children all out of the question. I then learned that a man in

London by the name of Porter (a) has claimed this estate through half blood kin, and has whipped the crown, and the week that I got there the crown was to pay over to Porter fifty-five thousand dollars in the first installment. My solicitor advised me to put an injunction that would stop the money in the crown's hands or the Bank of England, and that would give me a chance to hunt up the records, and I should have done it, IF I COULD HAVE FOUND THE MARRIAGE, but I COULD NOT. I could not find any record that ever this pair were married in that country; if we can, we can claim this large fortune through whole blood kin on the mother's half, and cause Porter to pay it back again. I then returned to Boston, and made my report to the Secretary of the Committee, and returned home, and have been looking for a notice in the papers for another meeting. I have a great many letters, etc. The heirs are very anxious to put this thing through. I expect to be in Boston the second day of July, and you can hear of me, 35 Harvard Street, Boston.

Should be highly pleased to see you in Boston at that time and place.

Report of the efforts made by the Massachusetts Branch.

The heirs of John Lawrence, of Watertown, Mass., met on the 17th inst. in Chapman Hall, Boston. The meeting was well attended, heirs being present from all parts of the country. The proceedings were very spirited and harmonious. It was the desire of all to have an immediate effort made to obtain correct information respecting the Townley estate. The report of the committee (which we annex) was adopted by a unanimous vote, and they were authorized to issue scrip to defray the expenses of an examination. We now seem to have a good basis to work upon, and it is the earnest desire of the committee that all who are interested will come forward at once and subscribe to the scrip (the price of which has been fixed at \$5.00, and guarantees to the holder \$50.00 from the first moneys received from the estate). Those wishing for one or more can remit the amount by mail to the Treasurer, C. B. RICHARDSON, 119 Washington Street, Boston, Mass.

Truly yours,

ISAAC LAWRENCE, Gardiner, Me.
 AMBROSE ALLEN, Marblehead, Mass.
 DANIEL STONE, Malden, Mass.
 LIBERTY WELLINGTON, Ashby, "
 L. W. PERHAM, Woburn, "
 OTIS MERRIAM, Chelsea, "
 C. B. RICHARDSON, Boston, "
 JAMES RIDGEWAY, Esq., New York.
 R. E. SPRAGUE, Tyson Furnace, Vt.
 LEMUEL PIERCE, So. Londonderry, Vt.
 JOSHUA KENNISON, Fall River, Mass.

*Standing
 Committee.*

(a.) Mr. Porter is the gentleman who recovered the property of the Rev. William Townley, and has nothing whatever to do with the Townley and Lawrence case.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

BOSTON, April 17, 1856.

Your committee would beg to report that on the 28th of March, 1855, Mr. Isaac Lawrence, according to his instructions, sailed for England in steamer Africa, to obtain the will or wills of John Townley, and the certificate of marriage of John Lawrence. He arrived at Liverpool 7th of April, and immediately proceeded to London, thence to St. Albans, where it was reported the certificate could be found. He was informed by the parish clerk (who gave him his written affidavit that the statement was true) that the church and all its records were destroyed by fire on the 14th of September, 1743, and it would be impossible to obtain it, and he accordingly returned to London. After securing the assistance of a competent and reliable attorney, he visited the Doctors Commons, where he obtained copies of two wills, the first of which was made in 1616, and recorded 1624. The second was made and recorded 1636.

He was told that both of these were the wills of John Townley, senior, and that his daughter Elizabeth (the wife of John Lawrence) was disinherited. The wills being recorded in latin, your agent was obliged to rely entirely upon his attorney ; being proved by John Townley, he felt confident that such was the case, and consequently gave up the search. Your agent found it very difficult and expensive obtaining information ; the strictness of their laws and the jealousy with which they guard such claims, placed many obstacles in his way. Upon his return, he delivered copies of the wills into the hands of the secretary, and requested him to call a meeting of the heirs and report the result of his labors ; but for good and sufficient reasons he delayed doing so, hoping to obtain further and more favorable information from the wills. Your committee met on the 3d of July, 1855, at the house of the secretary, and decided to have the wills translated. They were accordingly sent to a professional gentleman, and he informed them that the first was John Townley, senior, and the second John Townley, junior, and that the wife of John Lawrence was probably an heir to both estates. Your committee felt unwilling to let the matter rest, and accordingly met again on the 19th, and decided to make another effort to secure the marriage certificate ; and by considerable exertion succeeded in raising fifty dollars, which they put into the hands of Mr. Henry Woodward, an English gentleman, who was about to proceed to England on business, and who was recommended to your committee as a suitable person to undertake it. Three letters have been received from him, but they give us nothing of importance, and your committee are led to believe that there is an opposing influence in England, which will prevent his securing satisfactory information. Your committee have spent much time and labor in examining records, and during the past winter they were brought

in correspondence with a gentleman of talent and respectability, who has had twelve years' experience in collecting property in England, and prosecuting claims for American citizens. Desiring to confer with him upon the matter, they appointed a meeting on the 13th of March, at Chelsea, Mass. Nearly all of your committee were present, and after a few hours' consultation they were more than ever convinced that it was their duty to call a meeting of the heirs, report their proceedings, and to urge them to make an immediate and vigorous effort to obtain correct and satisfactory information respecting those estates.

Your committee are of the opinion, from what facts they have been able to gather, that there is property in England belonging to the heirs of John Lawrence, of Watertown, and they would recommend—after consulting parties who have pursued the same course successfully—that the heirs authorize the issuing of scrip, to be the first lien on moneys received from the estate to defray the expenses of examining the claim. All of which is respectfully submitted.

Extracts from the Historical Genealogy of the Lawrence Family, by Thomas Lawrence, 1858, pages 120 to 124 inclusive.

LAWRENCE AND TOWNLEY CONNECTION.

Extracted from the documents of Lewis P. Hunt, on his return from England in November, 1857, which is the most reliable information that has yet been made public in relation to the above-named families.

The Townley estate is of many millions, and situated in Lancashire.

The Lawrence estate is in Chancery.

The two families of Lawrence and Townley are connected by the marriage of JOSEPH Lawrence with Mary Townley, daughter of Sir Richard Townley of England, who was possessed of considerable estate in Lancashire.

The foundation of this family of the Townleys is this :

Richard Townley, Esq., the ancestor of Townley of Lancaster, born in 1628, married Margaret Paston, daughter of Clemant Paston, Esq., of Barnington, in Norfolk, and had thirteen children.

William Townley, Esq., of Townley, grandson and successor to the above Richard, was married to the only daughter and sole heir of Ralph Standish, Esq., of Standish, by Lady Philippa Howard, daughter of Henry Howard, sixth Duke of Norfolk, and are consequently connected—

The Lawrence Estate and Townley ;

The Townley Estate and Standish ;

And the Lawrence Estate.

Not one of those three estates has been settled yet. So, upon proving the relationship to one of those three families—Lawrence, Townley, and

Standish—this relation would, by possibility, be entitled to those three estates.

Those two names, John and Joseph, keep in the family, and found in the Lawrence pedigree of England, first reason to believe that there is a connection between these two families.

The date of the marriage and the birth are also perfectly corresponding.

This Richard, the son of Joseph, was married in 1717. He must be supposed to be born about from 1680 to 1690.

The brothers formerly said to have gone to America about 1635.

This Joseph was son, no doubt, to one of those two brothers.

We must conclude, from these premises and facts, that the pedigree from America, as descending from William Lawrence and Elizabeth Smith, as being the father and mother of Joseph Lawrence and Mary Townley, who have great chance of success.

The great point in that matter should be to IDENTIFY the FIRST ancestor, William Lawrence, to the SECOND ancestor, Joseph Lawrence, as being connected with this American Lawrence family, as originally coming from England. One strong opinion is, that the pedigree in the Lawrence case, of the Lawrence and Townley and Hunt families, has the greater chance of success. In corroboration of this present statement and conclusion, it should appear useful, and indeed indispensable, to examine separately first, and after comparatively with the American pedigree, all the other pedigrees of the Lawrence families in England, either produced into court or communicated between the solicitors of the case. There are about twenty-five pedigrees produced, and all the pedigrees produced before the court till the present time have failed, or could not be proved in any way. And all the pedigrees being in the hands of the solicitors, or known in the case, could not establish any solid claim.

It has been stated in the various debates that the three brothers died leaving no children in England. This capital point proves that, in order to trace out the Lawrence pedigree, it may be only by the descendants, that is to say, the ancestors. The documents of the said Lewis P. Hunt states that there is therein enumerated the various sources and records, were it not only possible but quite sure to find the necessary evidence.

We beg most respectfully to submit the following form of identity to the Lawrence and Townley families for the benefit of all families interested : In the *first* place, to identify the FIRST ancestor, William Lawrence, with the SECOND ancestor, JOSEPH Lawrence, we produce the certificate of license for the marriage of Mr. William Lawrence and Elizabeth Smith, and letters of administration granted to Elizabeth Lawrence,

the widow of William Lawrence, deceased, together with a conveyance of the said Elizabeth Lawrence in execution of her trust, as also a certificate of guardianship of her seven children. We claim this to be the strongest proof of the identity of Elizabeth Lawrence, *alias* Carterett, *alias* Townley, as the lawful wife of William Lawrence first above named.

Secondly. By quit claim deed, made by Joseph Lawrence, of Flushing, to Joseph Bonny, of Woodbridge, in the province of East New Jersey, in the year 1735, as identifying the second ancestor, Joseph Lawrence, with the said Elizabeth Lawrence, above identified as the lawful wife of the first ancestor, William Lawrence, who came over from England to America, as aforesaid. This completes the identity of the FIRST ancestor, William Lawrence, with the FIFTH ancestor, Josiah Hunt. All the above parties we claim to be established by first-class testimony, and the strongest known to the Federal law, except the marriage of JOSEPH Lawrence with Mary Townley, and of that we have a traditionary account from our forefathers, together with Holgate's Genealogy of distinguished families, and letters from H. G. Summerby, Esq., of London, and the Honorable Ex-Governor William Beach Lawrence, of Newport, Rhode Island, to Mr. Thomas Lawrence, of Providence, Rhode Island. In corroboration of the statements made in said letter, as also Holgate's Genealogy hereinbefore mentioned, we beg to offer and claim as corroborating testimony the signature of JOSEPH Lawrence, and Mary, his wife, in their own proper handwriting, subscribed to the certificate of marriage of their eldest son, Richard Lawrence, with Hannah Bowne, as witnesses thereto.

The two above-named estates, Townley and Standish, descend to the Lawrence family, by intermarriage in the following manner, to wit: Cecilia, daughter of Ralph Standish, Esq., and Philippa Howard, became before her death the sole heiress of her grandfather, Henry Howard, SIXTH DUKE OF NORFOLK. The said Cecilia Standish married Sir William Townley; by said marriage the property became vested in the Townley family; and by defect of heirs, descends to Mary Townley, who married JOSEPH Lawrence.

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CHAPTER II.

TO THE CHASE HEIRS.

THE REPORT OF THE DELEGATE WHO WAS SENT TO ENGLAND IN 1874.

Ever since my return from England, in June, 1874, I have been quietly at work investigating the matter in relation to the well-known Chase-Townley estate, believing that there was more in it than many had been led to suppose, and which I was able to discover during my short stay abroad.

The great obstacle in the way was a lack of the date of the decision of the Court of Chancery.

Within a short time I have obtained that, and can at any time after we get prepared lay claim to it. There is but one place in England where it is recorded.

Many who have heard this estate spoken of by their parents and grandparents, long since passed away, have only had a vague idea of its existence; indeed, many have doubted its existence at all, for the very reason that no one could be found in this country who could give any reliable information relating to it. During my long investigation of it I have come in possession of many facts, which can be substantiated, and which ought to satisfy all that it is no myth, some of which are as follows, viz.:

1st. As long ago as 1790, while the matter was in chancery, it was often spoken of on Nantucket, Mass., by the Chases, and in 1842 they raised a sum of money, which was placed in the hands of the late Daniel Webster when he went to England, on official business, to defray his expenses in investigating it. On his return he assured the heirs that they would eventually come in possession of it.

2d. In 1822 one Stephen Chase, who was wrecked on the *Albion*, on the coast of Ireland, made his way to England in a destitute condition.

When it was known that he was from America, he was assured by several parties that there was a large property in England which belonged to Chases in America.

Being poor and destitute he could not work up the case. He died in Wisconsin in 1865 or 1866, aged 96.

3d. In 1846 or 1847, the late Bishop Chase, of Illinois, was abroad, and was assured, by prominent parties in England, that some day the Chases would come in possession of it. On his return he was very much elated over the subject. He had been abroad once or twice before, and had had the same assurance.

4th. A prominent lawyer and philanthropist, a native of Wales, but for the past 40 or 45 years a citizen of Cincinnati, Ohio, was on the estate while it was in chancery.

5th. In 1846 a lawyer, Manice by name, came to America from England, and did what he could to find out, among the Chases, what they knew of their ancestors. At that time not one could be found who knew his genealogy hardly a generation back of his great-grandfather.

6th. Above all, the case was kept in chancery for many years, and finally decided in 1829, which leaves us but a short time in which to present and prove our claim. The time is coming when I will publish, in circular form, the decision. All that is necessary for us to do is to prove our genealogy. If we can show proof of next of kin, we will have accomplished our object. The Lawrences, of America, are just now exerting themselves to prove that they are next of kin, and will have another meeting at Cincinnati in September. For the past twenty-five years they have been quietly at work completing their genealogy. The Chases have held one or more large meetings; but for contrary opinions and lack of sufficient funds to accomplish anything very definite, the matter has been allowed to lag too much.

I doubt whether another general meeting would be desirable. Since I returned to America I have been almost the only one left to attend to the matter. What shall we do? Shall I abandon the work after going so far, and finding positive proof that the estate is no myth, all for lack of funds? In time and money I have spent upwards of \$2,000, and cannot go further. It is my desire to see the matter wound up as speedily as possible, and wish the opinion of all interested what I shall do. Funds must be had, else those I am employing in England will not proceed with the work. Our genealogy in America is nearly completed by Dr. J. B. Chase, of Taunton, Mass.

(Signed)

G. W. CHASE.

31 August, 1875.

DECISION IN THE CHASE WILL CASE.

The following item from the Boston *Advertiser*, relative to the Chase estate, is supposed to contain the real facts in the case, and may be of interest to some of our readers:

The decision in favor of the American heirs in the famous Chase will

case has excited much interest. The estate, which is valued at the modest sum of \$260,000,000, is located at Lancashire, England, and the property comes to the heirs in succession, several of whom live in Chicago and Alton. The English heirs had heretofore obtained their full interest, and the latter decision perfects the title of the American heirs. The estate came first from Sir Charles Townley, of Townley Hall, Lancashire. Sir Townley had one son, who afterwards married, and left a male child. The latter never took unto himself a wife, and upon his death he willed the entire property to his sister Mary and her heirs. The latter married William Chase, and four sons—Richard, Thomas, William and Aquilla—were the result of the union. Richard remained in England, but the other three came to America about the year 1629. Aquilla settled in the vicinity of Newburyport, Massachusetts; Thomas, in Rhode Island, and William in Yarmouth, Massachusetts. The amount originally bequeathed was \$385,000,000, of which one-fourth was distributed to the heirs of Richard, in England, and the remaining three-fourths, by the late decision, is to be distributed among the American heirs.

The following is a copy of an article published in the Cincinnati Weekly, Feb. 27, 1873.

THE CHASE FAMILY.

A few weeks ago there appeared a paragraph in the *Cincinnati Gazette*, taken from a Portland, Maine, paper, which claimed that one Geo. B. Chase, of that city, who was a lineal descendant of William Chase, who came to this country from England in 1630, declared the Chase fortune in England a humbug; that there never was such a thing there awaiting the claim of the heirs of William, Thomas and Aquilla Chase.

I cut said paragraph out and forwarded it to John F. Chase, one of the committee, at Boston. This John F. Chase lived very recently in Portland, and of course knows all of the Chases there. His reply to me is that the said Geo. B. Chase is a Boston man. He took the article to him and asked him about it. As might be expected, Geo. B. Chase was much surprised, and denied all knowledge of such assertion.

We have no doubt of the existence of the estate. Baring Brothers, bankers, of 8 Bishopgate Street, London, say it actually exists; besides, several parties who have been to England, looking up this matter, say the same.

We know very well who these parties are that start such contradictory stories regarding it, as the sequel will show.

In 1846 a few thousand dollars were raised, and a man, Cromley by name, was sent to England to see if there was any property there, as had been advertised in the *London Times*, calling on the heirs in this country to come forward and produce their claims.

This man was poor when he left, and was gone nearly a year before he was heard from. He finally returned to New York, but made no report, as he was bound to.

He was interviewed by one Captain Job G. Lawton, of Fall River, Mass., in November, 1846, and about the same time by Dr. Durfee Chase, of Palmyra, New York, and to both he replied that he was under £9,000 sterling forfeiture, not to reveal what he knew about it ; only said that the property was as had been reported.

It was noticed, not long after his return, that he had the nicest house, horses and carriages that were in the city of Boston, and he never engaged in any business after his return. He died two years ago, and left upwards of a million of property. Now where could he have got that ?

Since we revived the matter, his heirs have been busy denying that there was any such property awaiting our claim.

When the Court of Chancery decided it in favor of the Chases, it placed the available funds in the Bank of England at 3 per cent. interest, and placed trustees over the real estate, who pay only a nominal sum for its use till the rightful heirs claim it. Dr. J. B. Chase, of Massachusetts, has been at work on the records for upwards of twenty years, and now has them so far completed there is little danger from bogus Chases. I myself have a large list in my own hands getting ready for him. They are as yet incomplete ; and in order to complete them as speedily as possible, I would call on all by the name of Chase, and those knowing themselves to be connected in any way directly with the Chases, to trace up their genealogy as far back as their grandparents or great-grandparents, and forward the same to me at once.

If an answer is expected, one or two stamps should be enclosed, as I am doing this work without any remuneration whatever, and my correspondence costs something, to say nothing of the time it consumes.

GEO. W. CHASE.

The following is an exact copy of a Letter received from Mr. Chase :

RUTLAND, OHIO, July 23d, 1881.

As you do not write, I suppose that you have concluded that I am among those who adopt a course, to make money, that is so common in New York City and elsewhere ; if so, you are mistaken, for I am the agent of the Chases to work up the Townley case ; and, as I have spent much on it, being personally interested in it, I know much about it. It is no myth. It will, in all probabilities, be recovered. If you can get the information you seek cheaper elsewhere, do so by all means, but be sure you are not imposed on by professional sharpers.

I go on nothing but facts, that I know to be such—time will prove me correct.

Now allow me to ask you, do you know Mr. ——? He declares that no Chase or Lawrence married into the Townley family, and three years ago publicly offered \$20,000 if I or any one could prove that the case was ever tried. I have an abstract copy of the decision of 1829, but the records in England have been abstracted—this decree was adverse to the Boston Lawrence, who brought suit in 1827, as he was not in line of descent.

We now have the correct line, which shows that the decision of 1829 was correct.

We can prove by family, church and town records all that we claim.

I wish you would see Mr. ——, and, if he has not yet found what he wants, I will furnish him with a fact that will lead him straight to the case for \$2,500, he to deposit this with some honorable man or corporation in N. Y. that I will name. At the same time I will require of him his word that he will not state who gave him the information. I declare

- 1st. That Jeffrey Smith knows almost nothing about the estate.
- 2d. That Mary Townley did marry John Lawrence.
- 3d. That such is a record, and I can tell where.
- 4th. That the Lawrences in America have a claim in it to the amount of \$30,000,000 or more.

5th. And I can name the different estates that are included under the claim—there are four or five of them. I am not a regular estate hunter, but am interested in this, and know more about it than any other man in America.

(Signed)

G. W. CHASE.

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CHAPTER III.

UNCLAIMED MILLIONS.

A VAST ESTATE IN LANCASHIRE, ENGLAND, AWAITING CLAIMANTS.

MARY TOWNLEY'S CONFESSION.

HOW HER RUNAWAY MARRIAGE BROUGHT THE HEIRS TO AMERICA.

Probably no one estate in England has engrossed the attention of so many families in the United States and the Canadas, as has the estate called at various times the "Townley Lawrence," "Townley Stevens," "Townley Williams," and "Townley Chase" estate. I feel that the confession of Mary Stevens, of Canterbury, Connecticut, together with many facts tending to substantiate its truth, should be given to the public as a matter of historical interest to very many American families.

This document has long been in the hands of the Stevens family, who regard it as authentic and believe its contents to be true. Mary Stevens, wife of Robert Stevens, lived for many years in Canterbury, Conn. She died December 7, 1804, aged seventy-eight, and was buried in the town of East Thompson, Conn., having borne nine children. She was a woman of distinguished piety and goodness, and was respected and loved by all who knew her. Of her children, Sylvia was born in Canterbury, March 25, 1763, and was married, in Pomfret, Conn., to Chester Ingalls, April 4th, 1784. By this marriage, Pamela, or Polly, Ingalls, was born in Pomfret, August 27, 1785, to whom her mother told the following history, which the descendants have known for many years as the "Confession of Mary Townley, of Lancashire."

When I, Pamela Ingalls, now Pamela Cutting, wife of Abijah Cutting, was eighteen years of age, my mother, Sylvia Ingalls, told me the following history from her mother, Mary Stevens.

AN INTERESTING STORY.

In the year 1794, your father, Ingalls, and myself, brother Samuel Stevens and wife, paid a visit to brother Robert Stevens, residing in Canterbury, Conn. My mother, Mary Stevens, lived with him at that time. One day, during our visit, my mother led me aside, telling me in tears that she had something important to reveal.

This is as near what she told me as I can remember, not having copied it.

My dear daughter, I have been very ill, and fear I may never see you again, as we live widely apart. I do not know what my children may think, but hope they will forgive me when I tell them that they have not known their correct names. My father and mother lived in England.

My father was Lord John Townley, of Lancashire ; my mother's maiden name was Mary Lawrence, sister to John Lawrence. My mother (Mary Lawrence) was possessed of a large property before she married John Townley. I myself had property in my own name, when I left my father Townley's house. Francis Townley, a relative of ours, was beheaded in 1746. The government, at the time of the execution, set aside a portion of Francis Townley's estate for the heirs of Mary Lawrence Townley, the remainder of his estate being given to her sister Dorothy, who married Lord Effingham.

They died without issue, and Lord Effingham willed his property to Mary Lawrence Townley's heirs. The title (Lord Effingham) was derived from the district he represented. When I resided at my father's home, my property and my sister's property was in my mother Townley's possession, in trust, and I should have had it if I had needed it. But when I left home I did not dare claim it, as my intentions to leave might have been suspected. When I left home my sister, who was the only heir to my father's and my mother's property beside myself, was very sick with consumption. My uncle, John Lawrence, my mother's brother, is a merchant living in Norfolk, Va. His wealth is estimated at £500,000.

Ever since I became five years of age, my uncle, John Lawrence, promised my father and my mother that his property should be mine, and after I became old enough he told me the same thing many times.

He traded with this country before I came here to live. Since I have resided in Connecticut I have seen uncle John Lawrence's advertisements for me in the papers. I knew my uncle was my friend ; but from what had happened I did not have courage to let him know where I was, for fear we might be taken home, and your father would suffer severely for running away with me.

Your father's correct name was Williams. His father's family lived within the borders of our neighborhood. Young Williams became acquainted with me. I loved him and promised I would marry him. When my father heard of this he forbade our marriage. Williams' father also forbade our marriage. We tried to persuade them to relent, but could not do so, and our affection for each other being strong and sincere we ran away; took ship, and came to this country.

I brought with me my mother Townley's Bible. It had in it the records of her family and relatives and the memorandum of her estate, with other records. I also brought with me one of my mother's gold lockets. She had three lockets exactly alike. Each of us children had gold beads, with a locket attached. Each of the lockets had engraved on it the coat of arms of our family. My mother often told me that it was a custom in England, when there was a large property, if it was not settled while the giver was living, to leave some token with it for proof of heirship. I have always understood at home that these lockets were given to my sister and myself for that purpose.

FACILITY FOR CHANGING NAMES.

When my husband and myself went on board ship we were afraid to have our proper names put upon the passenger list; so I told my husband to have his name registered as John Lawrence, the name of my uncle.

The rest of my husband's family, knowing that my father Townley could prove their knowledge of our plan to elope, and that their punishment for not informing him would be severe, being by name John and Mary Williams, took their brother Joseph, eight years of age, and followed us, and we all came to America together. We were married a short time after we landed. When the minister asked my husband's name he gave him the name of his youngest brother Joseph, not daring to give his own for fear we might be traced, and trouble would come of it. So my name was placed upon the marriage record with the name of Joseph Williams. We moved from place to place, and finally settled in Canterbury, Conn. Fearing pursuit from England, we called our names Robert and Mary Stevens, the only names my children have ever known. When I had a family of children, four sons and five daughters, my husband left me, and I have never seen him since. I have kept my mother's locket very choice. My children have seldom seen it. When I was sick last year at my son Robert's house, I left it in his wife's possession. She does not know the value of it. If the other locket is left with the property, as will be the case, this one will be proof of my heirship. There is a spring to open it on the back, showing the coat-of-arms and name. I want you to see it. After dinner I will explain to you more. I (Sylvia Ingalls) did not expect to leave mother's house on that day, but after dinner my brother Samuel and wife, who had planned to visit some other relatives, determined to start immediately, and hurried me to get ready so as to reach the house they were to visit before the storm began, which there were threatening indications of. I promised my mother to return to her house on my way home.

At Robert Stevens' house I asked his wife to show me the locket. She

did so. It was broken, and she asked me not to tell mother about it. The part the coat-of-arms was on was broken in three pieces.

After our visit to our other relative's house, brother Samuel and wife determined to go home by another way.

I have never seen my mother since. I believe mother told me that Lord Townley (the husband of Mary Lawrence) received the name of Townley with the property title, but that she could not remember what his former name was. His property was not large before he married Mary Lawrence.

The property came to her. Mother was very particular to tell me that the property was called the Townley estate. Of the three brothers and one sister (Williams) who came from England to America, one married widow Mary Dean, in Canterbury, and they moved to Plainfield, Conn.

She was a Lawrence before she was married.

The youngest brother (Joseph) married Experience Lawrence, of Plainfield, Conn. My father changed names with this brother when the above marriage took place, Joseph resuming his own Christian name, and retaining it to his death. I am not sure whether mother said the other brother's name was John or not, but I think she did.

Mary Williams, the sister of the three brothers, married a Driar. Her son, Joseph Driar, joined the Shakers, at Enfield, N. H. I remember distinctly that mother repeatedly said the place she had lived in, in England, and where her home was, was Lancashire.

THE MISSING LOCKET.

There are still living (or were a few years since) many persons who heard the foregoing history from the lips of Pamela Ingalls, and there is no reason to doubt but that she had it from her mother, who, in turn, had it from Mary Stevens, as there could have been no possible motive for either to deceive. That the story is not just as Mary Stevens related it, is probable, from the fact that Sylvia Ingalls did not tell it to her daughter Pamela until she was eighteen years of age, or in 1803, nine years after she had received it from Mary Stevens. As she then related it from memory, whatever discrepancies may be found in it can fairly be excused. Now, returning to Mary Stevens, of Canterbury, let us see what can be found tending to substantiate her story. First, we note that her statement that "she moved from place to place" with her husband, previous to settling in Canterbury, and that their name was changed to avoid pursuit, is seemingly corroborated by the fact that diligent search fails to reveal any record of the birth of her son, Robert Stevens, Jr., whose daughter Lydia testifies that her father told her he was ten years of age when his parents came to Canterbury. Again, John Hatha-

way Stevens, son of Mary Stevens, born in Canterbury, September 20, 1766, was a man of distinguished mien and marked ability. He was settled over the Congregational Church in the thriving town of S——, Mass. He was a man thoroughly honored and loved by all who knew him, and he held many important trusts. It may fairly be presumed that such a man would leave no means untried to learn something of his immediate ancestry; but to all his inquiry concerning his grandparents, his mother would invariably reply that she came from a distinguished family across the water, and more than this she never told him. Besides this, it is well known to the descendants that Darius Stevens, another son of Mary Stevens, killed at Bunker Hill, and the remaining children, were equally ignorant of their ancestry until the time of this confession. Furthermore, as to the locket mentioned in the confession, Sylvia Stevens Ingalls states that she saw it, and that there was a coat of arms engraved upon it. And she makes this emphatic, by stating that the part that had the coat of arms upon it was broken in three pieces. Mary Starr, a granddaughter of Mary Stevens, who was with her during her last illness, was given the charge of this locket without the knowledge of its importance. Sylvia Stevens Ingalls, having moved to the State of Ohio, she (Mary Starr) gave it to her sister, who, likewise not knowing its value as an heirloom, sold it.

Unfortunately, an exact description of this locket is not extant, but enough is known of it to show that it was of the purest gold, of an oval shape, with a knot the size of a pin head upon the back. On the face of it was engraved the coat of arms of an English family. It was not thick, and was concave upon the back, to fit the throat.

The catch to hold the beads had a slot on one side, and on the other side were two perforations.

The diagram from which this description is copied, is about the size of an oval postage stamp, and was made by Mary Starr. No trace has ever been found of the family Bible mentioned in the confession. As to John Lawrence, who Mary Stevens states in her confession to have been her uncle, and who lived in Norfolk, Va., we find the following next of kin advertisement, inserted by order of the British Government, in 1831, in the *London Gazette*:

If the next of kin of John Lawrence, formerly of Buckland, County of Gloucester, afterward of Liverpool, in the County of Lancaster, but late of Norfolk, in the State of Virginia, United States of America, a bachelor deceased (who died in or about the month of December, 1814), will apply either personally, or by letter, to George Maule, Esq., Solicitor for the Affairs of His Majesty's Treasury, at No. 5 Storr Buildings, Lincolnshire Inn, London, they may hear of something to their advantage.

JOINING THE BROKEN LINKS.

In 1853 the solicitor stated that the above estate was a large property worth trying for, but would not state its approximate value. Mary Stevens further states, that of the three brothers of her husband who came from England with her, the youngest of them married Experience Lawrence, of Plainfield, Conn., and, at the time of his marriage, resumed his original Christian name, Joseph.

We find from the town records of Plainfield, that "Joseph Williams and Experience Lawrence were joined together in marriage, March ye 6, 1758." From this union were born Judah Williams, August 31, 1760, and Noah Williams, June 20, 1762.

Perhaps the descendants of these parties may be able to give some information as to the names of the brothers of their ancestor, Joseph, and as to their movements after they left England.

Information is in the possession of the writer that the other of the three Williams brothers, John by name, married widow Mary Dean in Canterbury, as stated by Mary Stevens. They had one son, John, who lived and died in Hanover, N. H.

He was often heard to speak of the "Townley estate," and asserted that the story of Mary Stevens was true. From the above, it will be seen that the history of her family, as given by Mary Stevens, is better than fiction, and that there is good reason for believing that her account of herself and doings is in the main correct. The Lawrence, Chase, and Townley families, have at different times laid claim to this estate, but the members of the Stevens family have never taken any decided action in the matter. The delegates sent to England by the former families have never accomplished much in the way of search, as we believe, for two essential reasons: namely, want of funds, and a properly directed method of procedure. That there is a large and unclaimed property in the hands of the British Government, awaiting the heirs of Mary Townley, or Mary Townley-Lawrence, we believe to be true beyond a doubt.

This property has been variously estimated at from \$30,000,000 to \$100,000,000. In the early part of the present century, an advertisement appeared, calling for the heirs to this estate, who were supposed to be living in America. In reply to a letter of inquiry directed by the writer to the Solicitor of Her Majesty's Treasury, Treasury Chambers, Whitehall, London, some fourteen years ago, the following communication was received:

TREASURY, Feb. 15, 1866.

SIR ——— TOWNLEY: In answer to your letter of the 30th ult., I have to acquaint you that I can give you no information respecting the property of Mary Townley.

THOMAS BAMFORD.

Mr. ———, U. S. A.

It will be noticed that in this letter the solicitor does not deny the existence of a property of Mary Townley (which the letter of inquiry was calculated to provoke, if no such property existed), but simply states that he "can give no information respecting the property."

The will of Lord Effingham, as far as the writer knows, has not been found in the examinations so far made; so that Mary Stevens' statement that he willed his property to her mother's heirs, is not contradicted, even if not substantiated.

Let us see how the history of the family, as given by Mary Stevens, tallies with the Townley family of Lancashire, remembering all the while that Sylvia Stevens Ingalls, without having taken notes, repeated this story from memory, nine years after she had received it from her mother. In the confession we read thus:

My father and my mother lived in England.

"My father was Lord John Townley. My mother's maiden name was Mary Lawrence, sister to John Lawrence."

Now, if we change this a little it will read thus:

My father and mother lived in England. My father was ——— Lawrence. My mother's maiden name was Mary Townley, sister-in-law to John Lawrence. By reading it thus we shall have Mary Stevens' maiden name, Mary Lawrence, or Mary Townley Lawrence (as the case might be), niece to John Lawrence, and cousin to Colonel Francis Townley, which change would seem to be admissible, for the reason that Mary Stevens says that her mother's sister Dorothy married Lord Effingham, and the records of Lancashire show that Dorothy Townley married Lord Effingham, and do not show who her sister Mary married. Moreover, Sylvia Ingalls states that "mother was very particular to tell me that the property was called the Townley estate," and believed that her mother also told her "that Lord Townley, the husband of Mary Lawrence, received the name of Townley with the property title, and was not wealthy before he married Mary Lawrence." Now, this could not be if the maiden name of Mary Stevens' mother was Mary Lawrence, as she would in such case have no claim to a Townley estate; and, as Mary Stevens is explicit in her statement as to what the property was called, there can be but one inference drawn, viz.: that Sylvia Ingalls did not remember correctly what her mother told her.

PROSPECTIVE PROFITABLE SEARCH.

If the will of Lord Effingham could be found, or it could be ascertained what became of the property of Colonel Francis Townley, this question of names could probably be determined. There is

good reason for believing that there never has been a properly directed search among the records in Lancashire for evidence that would throw light on this confession. If Mary Lawrence, or Mary Townley Lawrence, or, as the confession states, "Mary Townley, daughter of Lord John Townley," was born in Lancashire, her birth is probably there registered, as well as her christening. The reader's attention is also called to the strength of the fact that this confession was made in 1794, long before any of the present means of easy communication existed, in an obscure country village, by an obscure woman, and that it contains matter that could hardly have been known to her, unless she was the person she described herself to be.

The records of Lancashire show clearly that the Townley, Lawrence, and Ashton families were near neighbors, and intermarried in several generations. There is an old adage that "where there is so much smoke there must be some fire," and we believe this adage is very applicable to this case. It would be impossible in a limited space to give more than a part of the information the writer is possessed of, tending to corroborate the truth of the foregoing confession.

Enough has been given to show that the members of the Stevens family have good reason for believing that they are descended from the Townley family of Lancashire, and are entitled to a property left them by their English ancestors. Articles concerning this estate have appeared in the columns of the press at various times from 1846 to the present year in connection with the names of Lawrence, Chase and Townley. But we believe there has never been anything printed as to the claim of the Stevens family.

The above is the published statement of F. A. Hill.

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CHAPTER IV.

EXTRACTS FROM THE OFFICIAL RECORDS AT LONDON,
ENGLAND.

Other parties interested had other theories as to the fund, estate and the ancestors, but as these were not made known to me, and as I had no other knowledge, I was compelled to adopt the above theories, as they came from apparently authentic sources.

It was also asserted that advertisements had repeatedly appeared in the English newspapers, calling for the heirs of John Lawrence and Mary Townley, his wife.

It was further said that the money had been invested in annuities, and that the annuity list had been published by the English authorities invariably calling for the said heirs, and it was further stated that lists of unclaimed moneys in the Bank of England and Court of Chancery had frequently been published, and that the names of Mary Townley Lawrence always appeared in them. So convincing has been the belief in the existence of this fund, that several associations composed of the descendants of John and Joseph Lawrence, also William Chase and Mary, their supposed wife (your own among the number) have been formed, and have sent delegates to England, to make the requisite investigations, and to institute proceedings necessary to recover it.

Among these the Townley and Lawrence Association of Cincinnati, Ohio, Mr. G. W. Chase, the delegate who was sent to London in the interest of the Chase Association, and that of the Western Townley and Lawrence Association, of Dayton, Ohio, have been the foremost. They have made elaborate statements of the result of their investigations, which were transmitted to and received by the different members of the Lawrence and Chase family as entirely reliable.

Their report seemed to be entirely accurate; in fact there was no reason to doubt them; they were corroborated inferentially by all the accounts received from other sources, and the details of the investigations inspired confidence. Your association relied upon it, and no blame can be attached to you for such reliance. You would have apparently been false to the object and purpose of your organization, if you had not taken measures to protect what thus appeared to be the vital interests of your

constituency. Of course you had no means of judging the correctness of these statements as to the genealogy and so forth, but the showing as to the fund was such as to demand action upon your part. Believing that your interests should be represented by some one who was devoted to them exclusively, you honored me with an offer of employment to ascertain definitely whether such an unclaimed fund existed, and if it did, then to ascertain further to whom it belonged, and what would be the most expeditious and certain way of recovering it, or in short to take all proper measures in your behalf, and to file a bill of discovery, if advisable.

The first thing to ascertain was as to the existence of the alleged fund in the **Bank of England** or the **Court of Chancery** to the credit of any person whatever, by the name of **LAWRENCE, CHASE, or TOWNLEY**.

This you will see was no easy matter to ascertain, as there are many obstacles and embarrassments in the way. Among the most serious of these are the official regulations of the various public offices, which amounts almost to prohibiting of all inquiry. I quote them, to wit :

The rules prescribed by the **Master** of the **Rolls** respecting the **Chancery Master's Documents** in his charge and superintendence, passed pursuant to **STAT. 40 AND 41, VIC., CHAP. 55**.

I. "Any person wishing to inspect, or have copies of the **Chancery Master's Documents**, shall address a petition to the **Master** of the **Rolls**, stating the nature and object of the search."

II. "Except under special circumstances, no persons will be allowed to inspect, or have copies of the documents, unless he satisfies the **Master** of the **Rolls**, by *prima facie* evidence, either that he claims under one of the parties to the cause, who, if living, would be entitled to inspect the documents, or that he would be a person entitled to revive the cause if it were effective, or that he has a right to the documents themselves."

III. "The **Master** of the **Rolls**, should he see no objections to the application, will then, subject to the consent of the **Treasury** being obtained by the parties, give the necessary permission."

IV. "The fees are the same as that of the regulations of the **Master** of the **Rolls**."

24th May, 1875.

[Signed]

G. JESSEL, M. R.

Sept. 26th, 1877.

ORIGIN OF THE **Accountant General's Office**, AND THE FUNDS UNDER HIS CONTROL.

In the olden times the Masters in Chancery had the custody of all moneys and effects deposited in Court in suits referred to them, and the Usher took charge of any property brought into Court in suits which had

not been referred to one of the Masters. The Masters and the Ushers were responsible for all moneys and other property received by them, and were bound to distribute the property so intrusted to them by orders of the Court. In the meantime they employed the money in their hands for their own benefit. This practice continued until the bursting of the South Sea Bubble, when it was found that several of the Masters were defaulters.

A remarkable trial (reported in *State Trials*, vol. 16,) was the result, and ended in the then Lord Chancellor (Lord Macclesfield) being fined £30,000. The default of the Masters amounted to over £100,000; this default was made good by increased fees on the suitors, and stringent precautions were taken to prevent the recurrence of such a scandal. Each Master was directed by an order of the Lord Chancellor, dated 17th December, 1724, to procure and send to the Bank of England a chest with one lock, and hasps for two padlocks; the key of the lock to be kept by the Master, the key of one of the padlocks by one of the six Clerks in Chancery, and the key of the other by the Governor or Cashier of the Bank. Each Master was ordered to deposit in his chest all moneys and securities in his hands belonging to the Suitors, and the chests were then to be locked up and left in the custody of the Bank, and to be so kept that the Masters might have easy access thereto under orders of the Court. This plan did not work well, for it was found that by the rules of the Bank of England the vault where the chests were kept could not be opened unless two of the Directors were present with their keys, and it soon was found that great trouble, difficulty and expense would be occasioned to the Suitors by requiring the attendance of no less than five officials whenever any of the chests had to be opened to deliver out effects and to receive the interest due. In 1725, therefore, a General Order was made directing that all money and effects should be taken from the Master's chest and given into the custody of the Bank. Duplicate accounts were to be kept at the Bank and at the Chancery Report Office, and any dealing with the Suitor's money was to be certified to the Report Office.

Another General Order extended the plan to moneys and effects in the custody of the Usher of the Court.

In 1726, the first Accountant-General of the Court of Chancery was appointed, and all funds in the custody of the Masters or Ushers were transferred to his charge. An act of Parliament, passed in 1725, gives power to appoint an Accountant-General, and contains elaborate provisions with reference to the custody and safety of the Suitor's Funds.

Having thus glanced at the origin of the office of Accountant-General to the Court of Chancery, a word or two as to the funds dealt with by

the Court may not be out of place here. From the Annual Budget of the Paymaster-General it appears that the receipts for the year ending 31st August, 1876, added to the securities then in Court, made up a grand total of more than ninety millions sterling (£90,000,000), and that after deducting payments during the year there remained in hand more than seventy millions sterling (£70,000,000), exclusive of foreign currencies of the value of about £400,000. These enormous sums were mainly thus invested :

	£	s.	d.
Consolidated 3 per cent. Annuities, - - -	46,873,023	1	9
Cash (about one-third on deposit), - - -	4,920,151	1	11
Reduced 3 per cent. Annuities, - - -	5,612,742	6	7
New 3 per cent. Annuities, - - - -	7,624,462	6	0

The residue was made up of India Stock Exchequer Bills, Metropolitan Consolidated Stock, and stocks of most of the leading Railway, Dock and other Companies.

The whole field was untrodden. I found it a labyrinth which I was compelled to explore in darkness and with obstructions and confusions on every side.

I have explored it, nevertheless, and now that I have done so, I am reluctantly and regretfully forced to admit that all that which was told me and reported by my predecessors is entirely unwarranted and incorrect, and that my search was unprofitable, although not useless.

After years of conscientious and assiduous labor under the most trying circumstances, I have thoroughly satisfied myself, that there is no fund now in the **Bank of England**, or the **Court of Chancery**, in the name of **MARY TOWNLEY LAWRENCE**, or **Mary T. Chase**, or belonging by descent to any members of our or other similar associations. Naturally, upon hearing this, the mind of every reader will immediately revert to the \$500,000,000, which was affirmed to be in keeping of the **Chancery Court**, for the heirs of **MARY TOWNLEY**, the wife of **John Lawrence**, or **William Chase**, and it will be asked from what source that information was obtained.

In answering this, it is as well to at once explain the advertisement and annuity fallacies, as they are all of a piece with this.

There are several parties in London who publish books relative to "Unclaimed Money, Next of Kin, &c." I have examined those of them that I thought it material to, and I am positive that there is no foundation whatever for the statement, nor is the **Lawrence Chase Townley** estate mentioned at all in connection therewith, and finally there is no such estate as the **Lawrence, Chase and Townley** estate mentioned in any of the said books at all.

Moreover, the clerk in the K to T department of the **Accountant General's Office**, informed me that certain persons had been told repeatedly by him, after search, that there was not then, and never had been, any such fund.

The motives which prompted this deception upon a large body of expectant people wholly without the means of detecting it, cannot be too strongly characterized. I have found many others of the statements made and published, to be equally unwarranted, and nearly all of them to be more or less misleading.

Next in order of fallacies are the alleged advertisements for the Lawrence, Chase and Townley heirs, to which I have before referred. There is no substance in them. The most important statement as to them was that an official advertisement had appeared in the **LONDON TIMES**, **APRIL 6TH, 1827**, signed by the **Paymaster-General** of the **Court of Chancery**, calling on the heirs of **MARY TOWNLEY-LAWRENCE** to make themselves known at his office, and to receive a very large sum of money.

An examination of the paper of that date shows that there is no such advertisement.

Having disposed of that, I next turned my attention to the calls of next of kin, and found this basis in them, in a book published by Mr. Preston, entitled:

“Index to ‘Heirs-at-Law,’ next of kin, owners of unclaimed money, legatees or their representatives in Chancery suits, which have been advertised for during the last 150 years, etc.”

There is a numerical reference to fifteen advertisements for persons of the name of Lawrence and Townley. “Not a single one for the Chase’s.” This book is here also for inspection. I procured the full facts as to each of these advertisements, and give them herewith.

“TOWNLEY.”

1st. “1842—Wanted, Eliz. Townley, a daughter, and John Townley, a son of Arthur and Mary Townley, formerly of Whilton, County Northampton, or, if dead, their representatives. The former was in service in London in 1795, and the latter was supposed to have been placed on board H. M. S. Enterprise the same year.”

2d. “1854—The heirs of Rev. Geo. Townley, who in 1774 was a lecturer, and afterwards of St. Antholin, London; also for the heirs of Robt. Townley, who was living in Crawford Street, London, in 1829, and of his brother, Geo. Townley, who was alive at that time.”

3d. Rev. Geo. Stephen Townley, of Walbrook, London, 1805.

4th. Rev. Henry Townley, of Ramsgate, Kent Co., 1815.

5th. 1854—For the next of kin of Mrs. Eliz. James, sole executrix and devisee of John Townley, who died in Lambeth Co., Surry, in 1776.

“LAWRENCE.”

1st. In 1820, in the *London Gazette*, is an advertisement by the High Court of Chancery for Mary Lawrence, Mary Burton, John Lawrence and Michael Lawrence, children of Joseph Lawrence.

2d. *London Gazette*, 1834—“If the next of kin of Ann Lawrence, formerly of Bishop Startford, in the County of Herts, and lately of Crescent, Albany Road, Walworth, in the County of Surry, will apply to Mr. Surr, 80 Lombard Street, they will hear of something to their advantage.”

3d. *London Gazette*, 1796, is an advertisement for the first, second and third cousins of Richard Lawrence, of Southampton, to prove their pedigree, etc.

4th. *London Gazette*, 1795—“Pursuant to a decree of the Court of Chancery, bearing date the 5th day of February, 1793, in a cause “Lawrence, et al, vs. Dixon, et al,” the next of kin of Thomas Lawrence, late of Philadelphia, Pa., schoolmaster, and who afterwards lived at Mount Holly, in the County of Burlington, and province of West New Jersey, in U. S. A., and who were living at the time of the death of Elizabeth Hall, late of East Greenwich, in the County of Kent, widow, deceased, which happened on the 13th day of June, 1785; and also the representatives of such next of kin (if any), are forthwith to communicate and make out their kindred representatives before Alexander Popham, Esq., one of the Masters of the said Court, at his chambers in Simon’s Inn, Chancery Lane, London, to whom the said case stands referred; or in default thereof, they will be excluded the benefit of said decree.

6th. Pursuant to a Decree of the High Court of Chancery, made in a cause “Lawrence vs. Maule,” such of the next of kin of John Lawrence, late of Norfolk, Va., in United States, merchant deceased, as were living at the time of his death (which happened in the year 1814), and also the legal, personal representatives, or such of them (if any) as have since died, on or before the 8th of August, 1850, to come in and make out their, his, or her claim or claims, as such next of kin, or legal personal representatives, before William H. Timeey, Esq., one of the Masters of the said Court, at his chambers, etc.; or in default thereof, they will be excluded the benefit of the said decree, London, 1850.

7th. 2,614—Mary, John, and Michael Lawrence, legatees of Joseph.

8th. 5,178—William Lawrence, 1815, heirs wanted.

9th. John Lawrence, died at Worcester, England, 1804.

10th. Sarah Lawrence, otherwise Bennett, died 1840.

11th. William Lawrence, died abroad, date unknown.

The advertisement No. 6, for John Lawrence, at once attracted my attention. It was evident, at a glance, that neither of the others related to your John Lawrence and Mary Townley.

But I thought this came nearer, on the face of it, to the object of my search, than any other, and I thought it highly probable that this claim, now settled, was similar to ours, and as John Lawrence died in 1814, his claim must have been in Chancery a long time before his death, or probably began by his ancestors, and by him continued, under testimony of the strongest character; but he died thirty years before a decision, and the case was probably one hundred years or more in Chancery.

I afterwards discovered that the case was in no way connected with your ancestors. I shall hereafter give reasons for this. It is a common custom in England to advertise in this manner for debtors and witnesses who have absconded, or whose residences are unknown, and to endeavor to get services of summons in suits upon secreted defendants, and for a variety of similar purposes.

AS TO THE ALLEGED ANNUITIES.

Having exhausted the advertisements, the next thing to be examined was the list of unclaimed annuities, upon which so much had been predicted.

In order to understand this list, it is necessary to state the law which governs unclaimed dividends upon annuities.

By an Act of Parliament passed 56 Geo. III, Chap. 60, it was provided, that all capital stock, upon which dividends should remain unclaimed for the space of at least ten years at the Bank of England should be by the bank transferred to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, and the dividends upon it thereafter unclaimed should also be paid to them.

The first Act was afterward amended, 9th July, 1845, 9 Vict. I have the amended bills here for inspection.

SEC. I.—Provides, that after any such stock or dividends have been thus paid over, it may be repaid to claimants under certain conditions.

SEC. II.—Provides that three months' notice must be given by advertisement before transfer or payment of any stock or dividend to any claimant when the amount exceeds £20.

SEC. III.—Any person may apply to the Court of Chancery to rescind or vary any order before actual re-transfer or payment.

SEC. V.—The Lords of the Treasury may authorize inquiries into the circumstances of unclaimed stocks and dividends whenever necessary.

Sec. 52 provides that, immediately after every such transfer, the following particulars shall be entered in a list to be kept by the bank : (1) The name in which the stock stood immediately before the transfer ; (2) the residence and description of the parties ; (3) the amount trans-

ferred, and (4) the date of the transfer. Such list to be open for inspection at the usual hours of transfer ; duplicates of each list to be kept at the office of the National Debt Commissioners.

Sec. 54 deals with subsequent dividends. It provides that where stock is transferred, all dividends accruing thereon after the transfer shall be paid to the National Debt Commissioners, and shall be from time to time invested by them in the purchase of other like stock, to be placed to their account of unclaimed dividends. All such dividends, and the stock arising from the public investment thereof, shall be held by those Commissioners for, and subject to, the claims of the parties entitled thereto.

Sec. 55 relates to re-transferred, and payment to persons showing title; it is in substance as follows :

Re-transfer may be made to any person showing his right thereto. In case the authorities are dissatisfied with the claimant's title, he may by petition, in a summary way, state and verify his claims to the Courts of Chancery, and the Courts may make such order thereon, touching the stock, dividends and costs of application, as to the Court seems just.

Sec. 59. It may be desirable to give this section *in extenso*, as it relates to cases where a second claimant appears :

Where any stock or dividends, having been re-transferred or paid, as aforesaid, to a claimant by either bank, is or are afterward claimed by another person, the bank and their officers shall not be responsible for the same to such other claimant, but he may have recourse against the person to whom the re-transfer or payment was made.

Sec. 60 provided that if in any case a new claimant establishes his title to any stock or dividends re-transferred or paid to a former claimant, and is unable to obtain transfer or payment thereof from the former claimant, the Court of Chancery shall, on application by petition by the new claimant, verified as the Court requires, order the National Debt Commissioners to transfer to him any such sum in stock, and to pay to him such sum in money or dividends as the Court thinks just.

Sec. 63 enables the treasury to empower the Bank of England or Ireland to investigate the circumstances of any stock or dividends remaining unclaimed, with a view to ascertain the owners thereof, and allow them such compensation for their trouble and expenses as to the Treasury seems just.

In 1870 all enactments relating to the National Debt were consolidated, but Part VIII. of the Consolidation Act re-enacts the above provisions.

Now as to any Lawrence, Chase and Townley annuities.

The first list was published in 1823. It states expressly that it includes

"All funds and securities transferred . . . on or before the year 1820.

Therefore, it must have included any Lawrence, Chase or Townley fund, because it is beyond dispute that if any such fund had been in existence, it had certainly accumulated before 1820.

This list will be found in the Record of Transfers, published by order of the Directors of the Bank of England, A. D., 1823 (Title, No. 1392, G. 8 British Museum, 139 L., location).

It is entitled :

"The Names and Descriptions of the Proprietors of Unclaimed Dividends in Bank Stocks and all Government Funds and Securities transferred at the Bank of England, which became due on or before the year 1820, and remained unpaid the 31st December, 1822, including all stocks upon which dividends have been unclaimed for ten years together, which have been transferred and paid to the Commissioners for the reduction of the National debt, pursuant to Act 56, Geo. III., Chap. 60, with the date when the first dividends respectively became payable, and number of dividends due.

There is no dividend or stock in the list which belongs to any Lawrence and Townley to whom you can trace, directly or indirectly.

The only Lawrence and Townley in it are these :

Geo. S. Townley, of Walbrook, London, 1805.

Henry Townley, of Ramsgate, Kent Co., 1815, 3% Consol Annuities, p. 3 ; afterwards paid in full.

Chas. Townley, of Hadstock, Essex. 5% Annuities.

Wm. Townley, London, hostler, one dividend in Imperial Annuities, p. 353.

Robert Townley, of Crawford Street, London, 1829, 4% Navy Annuities.

"LAWRENCES."

William Lawrence, of Garlic Hill, a gentleman, 1st dividend unclaimed became due, 1810, 25 Div.

John Lawrence, of Demerara, due 1824, 25 Div.

John Lawrence, of Norfolk, Va., U. S. A., due 1817, 25 Div.

Randall Lawrence, of Wanstead, Essex, a farmer, Jan. 28th, 1828.

Robert Lawrence, of Birchin Lane, gentleman, 1827.

Susanna Lawrence, of South, in Lincolnshire, a spinster, 1761, 63 due.

Thomas Lawrence, of Birchin Lane, gent., 1827.

No mention is made of the name of Chase.

As you had no interest in any of these people, it was of course useless

to attempt to gain any further details as to them, especially under the stringent rules of the **Chancery Office**.

The official publication of this list settled definitely in my mind that there never had been by your Mary Townley, or any one for her, deposited in the **Bank of England**, \$500,000,000, or any other sum, which had been invested in **EAST INDIA BONDS** or any other **BONDS**, which bonds had been transferred to the National Debt Commissioners.

It was said that the estate of Dorothy Townley Howard and that of her mother, was administrated upon by the Government, and that the same was now held and rented by the **Government**, and that the plate and money was deposited in **The Bank of England**, drawing interest, etc.

An examination of the records proves this to be untrue in every particular.

If there was any such fund at all, clearly it was not in the transferred Annuities. There could be no dispute about that, and there was no need of pursuing that branch of investigation any further.

Not being there, the next query was, Where else could it possibly be?

This seemed an insoluble conundrum. It then occurred to me that inasmuch as the estate included land as well as money, and probably that for want of heirs both had been taken by the Crown upon escheat.

Determined to follow up every chance, I made long search, and at last was fortunate enough to find a complete record of escheats, which soon dispelled all hopes in that direction. I found the record in a book, the title of which is,

“INQUISITIONEM POST-MORTEM SIVE ESCHEATORUM.”

FOL. I AND 4, LETTERS H TO T AND A TO C.

It contains a list of all lands, estates and funds which for want of heirs escheated to the Crown.

It begins:

“Edward I., A. D. 1274, and is brought down to Nov. 29th, 1826.”

It shows that there never was an escheat of any Townley or Lawrence estate, so that prop was gone also. There is no mention of Chase.

The next list is in 1849, and there is only one Townley in it, so I proceeded to trace it.

This property was left by a great miser, Rev. William Townley, who died at Orpington in 1847.

This property escheated to the Crown for want of heirs or next of kin.

But it was claimed by a shoemaker named John Potter, of Manchester, England, about 1853, who substantiated his claim as such next of

kin, and recovered the property from the Crown, amounting to about £73,000.

I also made diligent search at the *Report Office*, but could find no decree from the years 1820 to 1830. Nor could I find any affidavits filed in such a suit against the *Bank of England*, in any of those years—1814—15—16—17—and was equally unsuccessful and failed to find any record of UNCLAIMED DIVIDENDS OR MONEY ON DEPOSIT that could in any way be identified with my clients or their ancestors.

The next search was at the *Wills Registry Office, Somerset House*, for any wills or letters of ADMINISTRATION from the time of 1 AND 2 EDWARD II., A. D. 1274 AND 1307.

I could find no will of Jonathan Lawrence, who, it was stated, came to England, and finally dying in possession of Townley Hall. I have made careful search in the years 1814, 1815, 1816 and 1817. I have also made search for any will of Dorothy Townley Howard in 1743, but could find no record of any such. Nor could I find a will of Richard Townley, which it was stated was recorded at Doctors Commons, October 10th, 1735. Nor that of his wife, who it was said died in 1740, leaving her vast estate in land, jewels, plate and money in the Bank of England, by will to her two daughters, Mary Townley and Dorothy Howard.

Col. Chas. Townley, late of Townley Hall, Lancashire, who died Nov. 4th, 1876, at Townley Hall.

The readers will perhaps remember that on the 10th of February, 1877, an article appeared in the different newspapers as follows, to wit: "That Col. Chas. Townley had died on the 4th of November, 1876, at Townley Hall, Lancashire, England, and left large estates and the sum of £800,000 to his heirs in America." I have the will, and two codicils dated August 10th, 1871, and July 2d, 1873, and July 12th, 1875, of Col. Chas. Townley, late of Townley Hall, died 4th of November, 1876, at Townley Hall; said will was proved in London on the 18th of November, 1876, by his son-in-law, Lord Noreys, and Lord Henry James Stonor, the executors.

The personal estate being sworn under £160,000, the testator bequeaths to Mr. Stonor, £100, to his secretary, Mathew Houghton, £200, for each year's service; but not to exceed in the whole £2,000: to Mademoiselle Briand, the friend of his daughter, an annuity of £50; and there are annuities to his housekeeper, the lady's maid of his late wife, and his herdsman; and legacies to the servants who have been five years in his service at his death. The whole remainder of his personality, and such parts of his real estate as he can dispose of by will, he leaves to his three daughters, Lady Norreys, Lady Alexander Gordon Lennox, and Lady O'Hagan.

EXTRACTS OF SIR CHAS. TOWNLEY'S WILL.

I have obtained a copy of the last will and testament of Sir Charles Townley (which is now at my office), who died in London, 1774. This is the gentleman who kept up the correspondence with the family of Col. Richard Townley, who came to America in 1682, A. D., and settled at Elizabethtown, N. J., and upon which so much has been predicted.

He leaves all his property in Thames Street, in the parish of St. Dunston, in the east, or elsewhere in the City of London, to Ralph Begland, Esq., Norroy King of Arms, William Geering, Gentleman of Doctors Common, and Thomas Johnson, Citizen of London, in trust for his wife Lady Townley, and on her death the estates to be sold, and the money to be divided amongst his daughter and his two sons William and John, and such other children living at his death, except his eldest son Charles. To his eldest son Charles, he leaves all his property at Long Whatton, or elsewhere in the County of Leicester, and on his death to his eldest son; or in case of death of said eldest son, then to the second, etc., in priority of birth. Should he die without issue, the property reverts to second son, William Townley, and on his death to his eldest son, etc. Should he die without issue, the property then reverts to the third son, John Townley.

There is positively no mention of any person in America in the said will. And would further state that there is no person in America mentioned in the will of Sir Chas. Townley, who died on the 4th day of Nov., 1876. This ended all claims, unless, indeed, it proved to be the fact that the supposed fund had been received by the **Accountant General in Chancery** in trust to the credit of some cause or matter therein depending, and was still held as a TRUST.

This was the only hope left, and that state of facts could only have occurred in case the **Crown Solicitor** had taken out letters of administration upon the estate of a deceased intestate, Lawrence, Chase, or Townley, and paid the money of the estate into the **Bank of England**, where, after lying unclaimed, it had been transferred to the credit of the **Accountant General in Chancery**, to be by him held in trust to attend the orders of the Court, and that thereafter there were some proceedings in **Chancery** regarding it, pursuant to 10 and 11 Vic., Chap. 96, an official copy of which I have.

I have already said that, as shown in **Somerset House**, neither the **Crown Solicitor**, or anybody else, had taken out letters of administration on a deceased intestate Lawrence, Chase or Townley.

Therefore I went to the **Chancery Office**, and applied to the proper department of the **Accountant General**, and was informed that there

was no Lawrence, Chase or Townley fund held then in their trust or otherwise.

I subsequently went to the **Record Office**, in FETTER LANE, and for several days searched the records there.

I had this object in view : I was not entirely satisfied with the denial of the **Chancery Office**, and I wanted to get at other sources of information.

It struck me that when the **Accountant General** received money or paid it out, a receipt must have been given for it, and these receipts should be on file and would show every transaction. It proved that I was correct in this supposition, and the receipts were filed in the **Record Office**.

I found the original certificates of the **Accountant General** from 1726 to 1799, packed away in 210 bundles in the **Record Office**, unnumbered and without index.

I spent nearly one day in having one of these bundles exhumed. It was for the year 1799.

I selected that year because if any fund had accrued, it had accrued prior to that date, but as usual the search was fruitless.

There was no receipt in the bundle for any Lawrence, Chase or Townley money of any sort.

I intended to search the remaining bundles, but was told by the **CHIEF CLERK** that it might take months to get them out and examine them, and that it was unnecessary to proceed further in that office, because there was a complete **INDEX** in the **OFFICE** of the **Accountant General**, which could be consulted. Accordingly, I again went to that office and asked to see the **Index**.

The request was peremptorily refused.

I then asked the clerk to examine it himself and state if there was any receipts for any Lawrence, Chase or Townley money.

He did so, and said there was not.

As I found that nothing could be done toward getting to examine the books myself, I set about ascertaining their contents by another method.

It was but reasonable to suppose that some time or other, some **OFFICER** or other had caused an examination and report to be made of the money in the **CHANCERY FUNDS**.

Pursuing that idea, I discovered that such examinations and reports had been frequently made.

I procured them all, and have them here.

The first was made upon the 5th of April, 1819, at which date the **House of Commons** had ordered "A return of the total amount of the effects of **SUITORS** in the **High Court of Chancery**, in the years from 1756 to 1818 inclusive.

This return did not give names and amounts specifically, but if the Lawrence, Chase and Townley fund had been swelling for more than a century by accretions of interest, as was claimed, it must have amounted to several millions at an early date.

And yet the return shows that in 1756 the total amount on hand in CHANCERY was only £2,864,975, 16s., 1d., and down to 1806 the total amount had only reached £21,922,754, 12s., 8d. When it is considered that these amounts included all the money belonging to Chancery funds of every description, all funds of wards, suitors, fees, trusts, etc., etc., it will be at once apparent that no Lawrence, Chase or Townley money was amongst it, unless to a very inconsiderable amount. Again: The **House of Commons**, February 10th, 1829, ordered another similar return to be made up to 1828.

The total amount then on hand was £39,216,326, os., 1d.

Then came another more searching order, made by the **House of Commons** February 9th, 1830, ordering a return which should show explicitly the whole amount then on hand.

By this time (1830) the Lawrence, Chase and Townley fund must have amounted to at least three hundred millions, which is an amount less than any estimate yet placed upon it.

But that return shows that at that date the grand total from all the above sources then on hand was:

In cash, £1,496,337, 4s., 2d.

Securities, £37,719,988, 15s., 11d.

Making a total of less than forty millions.

This destroyed even the probabilities of such a fund having been in existence; but still I have not got at the books to see in whose names the funds stood.

If I could have inspected these it would at once have settled the question as to whether any part of the money was derived from or belonging to the Lawrence, Chase or Townley fund. So I again applied to the *Accountant's Office* for permission to make a personal inspection of the books, but was refused. I succeeded, however, in getting official copies of all the returns made to the **House of Commons**, and submit them to you.

They are very instructive.

In 1841 the **House of Commons** appointed a SELECT COMMITTEE to report upon the proposal to erect new buildings for the **Courts of Law and Equity**.

This committee had before it the **Lord High Chancellor**, several of the JUDGES of the HIGHER COURTS of ENGLAND, and many of the most eminent lawyers in London, who delivered their opinions under oath.

In 1842 the report of the COMMITTEE was printed.

It appears from that report that in 1841 the total amount of stock and cash then standing in the name of the Accountant-General was:

Stock, £39,192,210, 7s., 1d.

Cash, £1,759,629, 2s., 9d.

Among other witnesses before the Committee was the distinguished LORD LANGDALE, who, in discussing whether the funds then on hand could be used towards erecting the proposed buildings, gave a full history of all the funds.

I make the following extract from his testimony:

“It seems an amazing thing to say that there are not less than £41,000,000 or £42,000,000 of stock standing in the name of the **Accountant-General**, but of that sum there are about £39,000,000 standing in the name of the **SUITORS** of the **COURTS**, liable at any time to be asked for by the persons who have a right to their respective portions, as soon as the questions affecting them are decided, and the time for payment arrived.

I suppose nobody will be found to propose touching any portion of that large part of the whole fund standing in the name of the **Accountant-General**.

Another part of that fund consists of some accumulations made from what is called the **SUITORS' FEE FUND**, amounting, according to the last return which I have seen, to between £66,000 and £67,000, but which has no doubt been considerably increased by subsequent investments.

That part of the fund arises from the investments of fees received from the suitors; and it is declared by **Parliament** to be a guarantee for any deficiencies which may happen in the receipt of fees for the payment of certain compensation, salaries and expenses; nobody, therefore, will propose to touch that part of the general fund.

There remains, however, about two millions and a half 3 per cent. stock, which is commonly called the **SUITORS' FUND**, and which consists of two distinct parts; one part of it is that which has arisen from the investments of suitors' cash in the **Bank of England**, and amounts to about £1,574,000. The other part of it consists of investments and accumulations made from the surplus interest arising from those investments of cash, and amounts to about £937,000.

The two together amount to two millions and a half, and a little more. Now, the cash standing on the books as due to the **SUITORS** of the **Court of Chancery**, according to the last return which I had seen, amounted to £1,445,529.

The amount or balance of cash standing to the **SUITORS' CREDIT** in the **Bank of England** at this same time, viz.: in Oct., 1840, was £145,642.

The stock purchased with the £1,300,000 cash, amounts to about £1,574,000 3 per cents.; and this, for the sake of distinction, may be called the CASH FUND, as arising from the investment of suitors' cash.

It is a security for the payment of so much of the cash as shall be required.

Whether the security is sufficient for payment of the whole which may possibly be required, is a question to be considered with reference to the prices at which 3 per cent. must be sold, to produce £1,300,000 cash.

"It stands thus: the dividends of CASH FUND amount to about £47,000 a year; the dividends of the SURPLUS INTEREST FUND amount to about £28,000 a year; together, they may be said to produce £75,000 a year, and the charges, as appears by the RETURN now shown to me, amounted, in the year 1840, to about £52,000.

Of this sum, the salaries of the **Lord Chancellor** and Masters amount to £35,000.

There are various other expenses, some certain and some uncertain, which raise the charge upon the income of £75,000 a year, to the sum I have mentioned, about £52,000. The surplus, therefore, is the annual sum of £23,000.

This explicit statement further established the fact that there was no such fund, in amount at least, as claimed.

After getting this, I found another source of information equally definite and explicit.

I found it an **Act of Parliament**, which was passed in 1853, called "The SUITORS' FURTHER RELIEF Act." Under this Act the **Lord Chancellor** was to cause an investigation to be made as to all the accounts whatsoever then standing in the name of the **Accountant-General**, to the CREDIT of any cause or matter in CHANCERY.

If the accrued dividends had not been dealt with for fifteen years or upwards, he might order them to be carried into a new account to be opened, and called "The SUITORS' UNCLAIMED DIVIDEND ACCOUNT," and the surplus cash accumulating from this account might be carried to the credit of "The Suitors' Fee Fund Account."

In 1854 the first investigation was made under this ACT. It then appeared that the total amount of SUITOR'S STOCK then in COURT was \$46,000,000.

In 1855 a list of these accounts was published, but no names or amounts were given.

In 1860 and 1866 similar lists were published, but there were no names or amounts given in them, so that I was unable to say definitely whether or not they included the Lawrence, Chase or Townley fund. I

could only say that, judging from the sum total, it was not large enough to indicate any such fund.

Subsequently I found in the **British Museum** a work which did give the names and dates. It is "The Unclaimed Dividend Book of England," containing the names and descriptions of upward of 20,000 persons entitled to various sums of money, being the whole of the unclaimed dividends and stock in the "PUBLIC FUNDS," which have been, by the terms of the "Bank Charter," transferred to the COMMISSIONERS for the Reduction of the NATIONAL DEBT, as unclaimed for ten years and upward.

Of course I examined this with the utmost care, but, as usual, I found nothing in it to the credit of any Lawrence, Chase or Townley.

Next in point of time was a list, which was the most satisfactory of all. This was an official list published in 1847.

It gives the names of the SUITORS and the title of the causes wherein they are engaged.

It covered every point of inquiry, as will be seen by reference to the heading of the list, which is as follows:

"A list of the titles of causes, matters and accounts in the books of the *Chancery Pay Office*, to the credit of which funds were standing on the 1st September, 1875, which had not been dealt with during the fifteen years immediately preceding that date, prepared pursuant to 'Rule 91 of the CHANCERY FUNDS consolidated Rules, 1874.'"

It was in reference to this list that the rule was established, restricting information, which I have mentioned heretofore.

Although ostensibly confined to causes not dealt with for the preceding fifteen years, in reality it includes all causes and matters up to that date.

It covers sixty-two columns and embraces over three thousand names; and if the Lawrence, Chase or Townley fund was a reality and not a myth, it would certainly appear there. It could not be omitted.

But you will see that there is no suit whatever relating to any administrator of any Lawrence, Chase or Townley estate, or Lawrence, Chase or Townley trust, although, by inspection, it will further be seen that the list deals with just this class of cases.

I have also called upon Messrs. Bompas, Bischoff & Dodgson, of 4 Great Winchester Street, who, I was informed, examined the matter very fully, and therefore wished to obtain their views about the case; and they have kindly furnished a written statement, to wit. In reference to the matter of LAWRENCE and TOWNLEY, or TOWNLEY and LAWRENCE, we have made careful and diligent searches at the **Wills Registry Office**, at the **Record Office**, at the **Master of the Rolls Office**, and at the

Bank of England and Report Office; but in none of these have we come across the slightest clue to the matters in question. We could find no will of Jonathan Lawrence (*a*) proved in London, in 1816, nor in 1813, '14, '15, '17.

We searched, in addition, for any will of Dorothy Townley Howard, in 1743, but could find no record of any such. At the **Record Office** we could find no mention at all in the years 1826, '7, '8, '9, '30, of any suit of Lawrences against the **Bank of England**, nor in the **Report Office** could we find any decree in any of those years, nor in the **Record and Writ Clerk's Office**, or at the **Master of the Rolls Office**, could we find any affidavits filed in such a suit, in any of these years.

At the **Bank of England** we were equally unsuccessful, and failed to find any record of unclaimed dividends, or money on deposit, that could in any way be identified with TOWNLEY and LAWRENCE, or LAWRENCE and TOWNLEY CLAIM, and we feel bound, therefore, to say that there is absolutely nothing in the claim at all.

Having been informed that MESSRS. EWBANK and PARTINGTON, of No. 3 SOUTH SQUARE, GRAY'S INN, had examined the case, and who were reported to have given a very encouraging account of the case, I called on the gentlemen, and frankly stated the object of my visit, and they informed me that they positively never reported in favor of the case; on the contrary, they expressed their opinion adversely to any claim. The following is their statement, which I have in WRITING, to wit:

We have had frequent enquiries from AMERICA as to the estate of MARY TOWNLEY, sometimes called LADY MARY TOWNLEY, and have consequently made an examination, and do not find that there is, or ever has been, any estate of LADY MARY TOWNLEY, or MARY TOWNLEY, to be distributed.

The TOWNLEY (*b*) CASE, which was quite distinct from MARY TOWNLEY, was distributed many years since, under a decree of the COURT OF CHANCERY here, to persons who established their right as next of kin of the deceased.

The SUPPOSED marriage of MARY TOWNLEY to a JOHN or JOSEPH LAWRENCE, who went to AMERICA, is mixing the TOWNLEY CASE with

(*a*). This is a flat contradiction of the statement on page 10, in which it is stated that Jonathan Lawrence went to England in 1814, and succeeded Charles Townley in the Townley estate, and finally dying in possession of Townley Hall, in 1816, leaving a will by which the estate descended to his succeeding generation in America.

(*b*). The case referred to, is that of the miser, Reverend Wm. Townley, who died at Orpington, England, 1847, leaving £73,000, which was recovered in 1853, by his next of kin, a Mr. John Potter, a poor shoemaker of Manchester.

another case—the LAWRENCE (*a*) CASE. A great many claimants appear to claim the property of JOHN LAWRENCE, and several suits were instituted to administer the estate; the claim of parties related to the deceased on the mother's side was allowed by the **Court of Chancery**, and the money paid over to them accordingly.

There is no estate of either TOWNLEY or LAWRENCE now remaining unclaimed.

It is said that MARY TOWNLEY went to AMERICA, in 1716; it does not appear what property it was supposed that she was entitled to, or from whence derived; our own belief is that the supposed claim has been originated in the States, by parties who are desirous of obtaining a few dollars from unsuspecting persons, by calling a meeting of all parties who claim through a LAWRENCE, CHASE, or TOWNLEY, when they are requested to subscribe towards a fund to make an investigation, and recover the FUND which it is supposed still remains unclaimed. I have known a great many cases of this description.

(Signed)

C. J. PARTINGTON,

Of EWBANK & PARTINGTON,

Solicitors.

I then called at the BANKING HOUSE of the well-known BARING BROTHERS, at No. 8 Bishopgate Street, London, who received me very courteously; and when I made known the nature of my visit—at the same time exhibiting a copy of Mr. G. W. Chase's letter, in which he makes the positive statement that this firm has examined and reported favorably on the Chase and Townley case, they denied this assertion most emphatically, and assert positively that they have never, either directly or indirectly, had anything to do with the case; they informed me, however, that they remember having had similar enquiries addressed to them on various occasions, of which they have usually taken no notice, but in the few instances where they may have replied, they simply informed the applicant of their inability to comply with their request, as the nature of the business did not suit them.

At the **American Consulate**, I learned that several applications had been received from AMERICA regarding the LAWRENCE, CHASE and TOWNLEY CLAIM, and finally it had been referred to the SOLICITORS of the CONSULATE, with instructions to probe it to the bottom, sparing neither time nor expense, in order that the completest information might be given in reply. The SOLICITORS had made the search as directed, and

(*a*). Refers to the case of John Lawrence, late of Norfolk, Virginia, who died in 1814.

had reported that positively there was no such fund in existence to be paid, even if any heirs could prove a claim to receive it.

A prominent ENGLISH LAWYER, to whom I am under many obligations for professional courtesy extended to me, had examined the claim thoroughly, and at his instance, the SOLICITOR of the **Bank of England** has made a personal examination of the books of the **Bank**, and had stated to him "professionally" that there was not now, and never had been such a fund in the **Bank**. I then, in company with him, called on MR. S. O. GAY, **Chief Accountant of the Bank of England**, and he then informed me that the **Bank Books** had been thoroughly examined in respect to the LAWRENCE, CHASE and TOWNLEY claim, and that no stock can be traced in any of the funds in the name of MARY TOWNLEY, CHASE or LAWRENCE, and that there is no unclaimed stock in that name at the present time, and he also gave me a written statement to that effect. All these parties were of the highest integrity and professional standing, with no motive whatever to mislead, but on the contrary every desire to aid me.

THE STEWARD for all the TOWNLEY ESTATE is GEORGE STORY, Esq., whose office is at BURNLEY, LANCASHIRE, to whom I wrote for an explanation of Colonel James F. Jacques' letter, mentioned in the forepart of this book, and I received the following answer :

TOWNLEY ESTATE,
OFFICE, BURNLEY, LANCASHIRE,
ENGLAND.

I am in receipt of your letter dated November 25th, and posted in New York on December 27th, 1881. I note the copy of Colonel James F. Jacques' letter of October 8th, 1879. I can only say that gentleman is entirely misleading your clients. His letter is a misstatement from beginning to end.

None of the estates he names are without owners or ever have been. I have only to refer you to *Burke's Peerage* or *Whittaker's History of Whalley*. There is no money in the hands of the Government that ever I heard of. TAKE MY ADVICE and spend no more money over such an ABSURD claim. I saw Colonel J. F. Jacques several times and he never would tell me what he wanted.

In reviewing the evidence which the various claimants produced, and which they expected would suffice to substantiate a claim if the estate was found unclaimed, is of such a frivolous nature that I can not forbear making some observations and to state that I am astonished to find so many intelligent people among those who have permitted themselves to be duped, for so many years, by designing lawyers and other interested

parties. I find, upon close investigation, that the letters written by Mr. F. Kniveton (see page 21) were for a purpose, and that purpose was to influence innocent, unwary persons to purchase Jasiel Lawrence's worthless bonds, which were held up to the public to be a "great chance," but which in reality was only a defrauding scheme, which had been agitated for over fifty years, thus making it a very easy matter to entrap their victims. You will observe that Jasiel Lawrence states, in his circular (see page 14), "*that the Court of Chancery, ordered by the House of Commons, Feb. 23, 1865, that the Townley and Lawrence estate remained yet unclaimed, and as yet subject to a claimant;*" that on the books is marked: *heirs gone to America*. These assertions, which, by the way, are entirely false, is, in fact, too absurd and ridiculous to think about. In the letter of Norman J. Lawrence (see page 17), Jan. 4th, 1856, he states that he found that the hotel keeper at Liverpool had been a juryman in the Court of Chancery for seven years. Now, any person of ordinary intelligence knows that there ARE NO jurymen in the Court of Chancery.

The reader will observe that one branch of the Lawrence family asserts positively that Mary Townley married JOHN Lawrence, whilst another branch of the same family is equally positive that she married JOSEPH Lawrence (see pages 9 and 26). One word regarding the alleged confession of Mary Stevens (see page 39), in which she figures in the character of Mary Townley, like a good fairy in a Christmas pantomime, is so very absurd, in every feature, as to move the author to pity those people of ordinary intelligence who allowed their credulity to be imposed upon by such an utterly absurd fiction as the alleged confession. I have also had search made for the firm of Huntley & Richardson, of Liverpool, and from information before me I fully believe that there never was such a firm.

With regard to the published decree, on page 16, to apply to R. J. Lawton, Princess Street, Manchester, England, who, when shown a copy of the same, expressed profound ignorance of the whole matter. He declared that he positively knew nothing about the advertisement, and had never authorized any one to use his name in connection therewith; and, after a thorough search of this city, no such person as C. W. Lawton, Station G, could be found.

Within the past few days I have been authentically informed that there is a certain claim agent from America, now in London, who has been there for the past two or three years at the expense of a number of persons possessing Lawrence and Townley bonds. He reports that he has been remarkably successful in collecting evidence, etc., and has repeatedly called upon said bondholders for an additional assessment; and the strangest part of the proceedings is, that he invariably obtains it, too.

I think it is little short of imposition and false pretense, to take the money of these credulous people to go on with such a vain and utterly hopeless pursuit, and the public, in justice to themselves, ought to know it.

I have just been handed a postal-card, addressed to the descendants of Jabez Keep and Experience Lawrence, the writer of which states that he has learned much concerning the descendants of Mary Townley, and *thinks* that Experience Lawrence was one of them, which, however, is entirely incorrect. Mary, who died at twelve years of age, certainly could not have left many descendants. Notwithstanding this established fact, the writer calls upon the descendants of Experience Lawrence to subscribe five hundred dollars to enable him to find some prop whereon to base the claimants' glowing hopes of future wealth. My report embodies facts which are a matter of public record, and which were final long before this date, and which never could be changed by any discoveries since, or by any other date; and until these facts are obliterated from history, the well-known story of John Lawrence and Mary Townley, his supposed wife, is simply absurd.

I cannot believe that the author of the printed card is aware of the fact of Mary Townley's early death, and that the Townley estate has never been unclaimed, and that it is now, and always has been, held by the rightful heirs. Nor can I believe that, if he is aware of it, he would suppress the information, and still ask the claimants to subscribe the five hundred dollars; and on the other hand, if he is not aware of it, he must submit to the criticism which such want of knowledge invites.

It may not be amiss to call attention to the record taken from the Bible of Libbeus Lawrence on pages 20 and 21.

William T. Lawrence's *father*. That between the birth of William Townley Lawrence's alleged oldest brother, Libbeus, Jr., and William Townley Lawrence is a period of forty-two years, and between Libbeus, the first, and Julia Ann, the last child, is a gap of fifty-two years.

Now, if Sylvia Ford, whom William Townley Lawrence claims as his mother (*on supposition*), was only eighteen years of age when married, she would have been nearly sixty-two years old when LORD WILLIAM was born, and about seventy-one when the last child, Julia Ann, was born. This goes to show very plainly how ridiculous this evidence is, and proves, upon the very face of it, that it would be of no value in a court of law.

This case was, no doubt, taken in good faith by many of my predecessors, but they, as well as the parties recently engaged on it, either had no energy or push to bring it to an issue, or, for other reasons best known to themselves, deemed it prudent not to disclose to the various

claimants the true facts of the case, and are, without a shadow of a doubt, as much to blame as those who first took it in hand. If this matter stood only as a difference of opinion between lawyers, I should not refer to it, but it does not, happily for all concerned. It has been decided in the most authoritative form, presumably, forever.

It settles the fact that all such claim to the TOWNLEY ESTATE is simply out of the question. This ends all hopes, and should end all inquiry.

Money spent hereafter in the prosecution of claims to the TOWNLEY ESTATE, or to endeavor to make discoveries whereon to attempt to establish any CLAIM, will be recklessly and willfully squandered, and the knowledge of this fact should hereafter silence all solicitations by honorable men and reputable lawyers.

I am frequently asked, "How did the story originate?"

This matter being agitated so many years ago, no doubt had its effect on some of the members of the family, who probably mentioned the matter in their children's presence ; and it is the most natural thing in the world that the LAWRENCE and CHASE descendants should carry down with them, from generation to generation, the story of the vast wealth which the family was SUPPOSED to be entitled to in England. These recitals lose nothing by repetition, but gain strength with increasing years, until they became finally reported in the family as a fact, that the ancestor *was* entitled to a large estate when he came to this country, and that they were rightfully entitled to the same ; whereas, in truth, the family ancestor LEFT NO SUCH an estate behind him, nor inherited any AFTER HE LEFT England ; but the estate spoken of in the old family tradition was that which belonged to the TOWNLEY FAMILY OF ENGLAND, who still rightfully hold and enjoy the same.

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CHAPTER V.

PEDIGREE AND GENEALOGICAL NOTES OF THE TOWNLEY FAMILY.

When I became convinced that there was no money to be reclaimed, I felt that it would be some satisfaction if I could trace the family pedigree accurately. With this view I have made extensive researches, but without arriving at any definite result, so far as the LAWRENCE family are concerned; but I believe that I have been enabled to trace with accuracy the Pedigree of the TOWNLEY and CHASE families, and what I have collected I present to the readers.*

I have carefully examined various county histories, Peerage and Baronetage lists, Heraldic manuscript and genealogies, and I have ascertained that Richard Townley was son of Charles Townley, who was slain at the battle of MARSTON MOOR, and that he succeeded to his estate. He was born in 1628, and married Margaret, daughter of Clement Paston, Esq., of Barmingham, in Norfolk. His wife Margaret died January 20th, 1672.

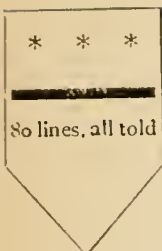
From the above union were born seven sons and six daughters, to wit :

1. { Clement, } both died very young.
2. { Richard, }
3. Charles, sole heir to his father.
4. John, died in infancy.
5. John, a monk.
6. Richard, born 1664.
7. Thomas, born 1666.
8. Mary, born 1668, died 1680, and is buried in the Catholic Cemetery at Fordæ, near Little Crosby, about ten miles northeast of Liverpool, in the County of Lancaster.
9. Anna, born 1670.
10. Dorothy, married Francis Howard.
11. Frances, married Cuthbert Kennet, of Coxhow.

* SEE PAGES 77 AND 78.

PEDIGREE OF THE TOWNLEY FAMILY

The Pedigree of Sir Charles



NICHOLAS TOWNLEY, Esq., was living 14th, King Edw'd 4th. He was the 3d son of John Townley, of Townley, in the County of Palatine, of Lancaster, Esq.

RICHARD TOWNLEY, Esq., son and heir, was reader of Grays Inn, 4th, K. Henry 8th.

NICHOLAS TOWNLEY, of Royale, in the County of Palatine, of Lancaster, Esq., son and heir.

EDMUND TOWNLEY, of Royale, in the Parish of Bumley, Esq., son and heir buried there A 9 1598. 41st of Queen Elizabeth.

FRANCIS TOWNLEY, Esq., 3d son, was of Littleton Place aforesaid, being left heir of his Great Uncle Francis Vaughan, Esq.

†NICHOLAS TOWNLEY, of Littleton Place aforesaid, Esq., son and heir, died 3d June, 1687, aged 75 years, buried at Littleton.

Nicholas Townley, = Jane, 2d daughter of East Bourne, Sussex, and of the inner Temple, London, Esq., eldest son died 1st of May, 1685, in his father's lifetime, buried in the great chancel of East Bourne Church.	Francis Townley, 2d son, became a merchant at Ham- burgh. He died A 9 1681, and his issue are all extinct.	William, 3d, John, 6th, Robert, 9th, died unmarried.	Edmund Townley, 4th son, became a merchant also at Ham- burgh, buried at St. John's Ch. there. His issue are all likewise extinct.	Thom- ley, = zen a Lon about 1681 sue a
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Wm. Wilson, Esq., son and heir apparent of Sir Wm. Wilson of East Bourne, in the County of Sussex, Bart., died in his father's lifetime, 13th of July, 1713, in the 32d year of his age; buried in the chancel there.	Jane, only child, died A 9 1719, buried with her husband.	Charles Townley, of Clapham, in the County of Surrey, Esq., born in the parish of St. Dunstan, East Lon- don, 9th of August, 1684, died at Clap- ham, 16th of January, 1755, and was buried in his own family vault, at St. Dunstan, aforesaid; he married a second wife, leaving two sons, viz: Kerkes and Hammett Townley, and two daughters, Arabella and Carofina, all living.	Sar- Wm. ton, in ter, C 1690, 1712, 1714, at St.
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Sir Wm. Wilson, of East Bourne, Bart., only son, succeeded his grand- father in title and estate. He died 23d January, 1723, in the 19th year of his age, unmarried, and is buried in the chancel at East Bourne.	Elizabeth, only daughter, was married to James Glen, of Linlith- gow, North Britten, Esq., Capt. General and Governor in Chief of So. Carolina; she died without issue.	Sir Charles Townley, Knt., eldest son, born on Great Tower Hill, London, 2d March, 1713. He was possessed of div- lands at Long Whotton and elsewhere made York Herald 26th Aug., 1735, Kt. of Arms 11th January, 1755, and was Knighted in Westminster Hall, 22d of September, 1761, being the Coronation day of their Majesties King George 3d and Queen Charlotte.
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Charles Townley, Esq., eldest son, born in Great Tower, in the parish of St. Dunstan, in the East, Lon- don, 11th of Nov., 1749, now living A 9 1769, to be herald.	Mary, eldest daught- er, born in Old Fish st., London, 22d of October, 1752, living A 9 1769.	Wm. Townley, 2d son, born in the town of Nottingham, 18th of July, 1755, living 1769.	John Townley, 3d son, born at Lenton Abbey, near Notting- ham, 17th July, 1757, living 1762.	Robert To- son, died at 13 months, the family view Dunston.
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The above is in every particular correct. Witness my hand in

† This Nicholas Townley, Esq., was possessed of a very plentiful estate, and had in marriage portion with his wife, twenty thousand pounds a very large sum in those days; but, being of most extravagant disposition, ran through and spent all he had, whereby he beggared

The English *visitations* were not made up by the production of PARISH REGISTERS, but from the representation beyond any PARISH CERTIFICATES. There were none in England before 1532.

WNLEY HALL, LANCASHIRE, ENGLAND.

. Clarenceux King of Arms.

ZABETH, daughter of Richard Caterall, of Caterall, in the County of Palatine, of Lancaster, Esq., Relict of Tempest, son and heir of Roger Tempest, Lord of the Manor of Broughton, in the sd. County, Esq.

RGARET daughter and heir of John Clarke, of Warley, by which marriage Royale came into this branch of the Townley.

NE, daughter of Sir Hugh Vanghn, of Littleton Place, in the County of Middlessex, Knt., Privy Counsellor to ary 7th and King Henry 8th.

HARINE, 3d daughter of Richard Curson, of Waterbury, in the County of Oxford, Esq.

HARINE, 3d and youngest daughter of Sir Thomas Foster, Knt., one of the Justices of the Court of Common Westminster, in the Reign of King James the First.

NNA, elder of the two, daughter and coheirs of Wm. White, of Northiam, in the County of Sussex, Esq. She re her husband, and was buried at Littleton. Her husband's behavior broke her heart.

arine, y, , abeth, or, all died nts.	Joanna, 1st, Catherine, 2d, Mary, 3d, Ann, 4th, all died issueless.	Charles Townley, 7th= son, of the parish of St. Dunstan, in the East of London, merchant, born at Littleton Place. 14th February, 1632, died 20th September, 1719, and lies buried in the family vault at Dunstan, aforesaid.	Sarah, daughter of Anth? Allen, of Camberwall, in the County of Savoy, and citizen of London, a near relation of Sir Thomas Al- len, Bart., Lord Mayor of London, A? 1660. She died 30th December, 1729, buried with her husband.	Richard Townley, 8th son, went over in the re- tinue of Lord Effing'm Howard, Gov. of Virginia He settled at Elizabeth- town, N. J., where he be- came a great man, and where his descendants now reside.
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of it- s- y, e, y, ult	James Townley, 2d son, born 25th Sept., 1688, was unfortunately drowned as he was bathing, 28th June, 1702, unmarried, buried at St. Dunstan, aforesaid.	Sarah, only remaining daughter, born 23d January, 1695, died unmarried at Windsor, 1st of May, 1741, buried under a white marble in St. George's Chapel there. She left her fortune be- tween her nephews, Charles and James.	Nicholas, Francis, Sarah, Martha, Honor, all died infants.
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, younger of the two daughters, heirs of George Eastwood, of t, in the West Riding of the of York, Gent., born 5th Sept., und married there 24th June, iving 1769, and respected by ne for her personal and amiable on and accomplishments.	James Townley, 2d son, M. A., born on Great Tower Hill, London, 6th May, 1714, now Rector of St. Bonnett Grace Church, and Treasurer of St. Dunstan, in the East, aforesaid, also head master of Merchant Tailors' School, London, Chaplain to Geo. Gordon, Earl of Ab- erdeen, and likewise to Jonathan Ship- ley, Lord Bishop of Landaff.	Jane, daughter and coheir of Peter Bonnin, of Lisbon, merchant, living 1769.
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ia, youngest er, born in Old , London, 27th , 1766, living 69.	Charles Townley, eldest son, born 1744. living 1769, a very cele- brated engraver.	James Townley, 2d son, born 1746, living 1769, a proctor in Doc- tors Commons.	Geo. Stephen Town- ley, 3d son, born 1747. living 1769, intended for a clergyman.	Jane, 1st daughter. Sarah, 2d, Catharine, 3d, Mary, 4th, Elizabeth, 5th, all living 1769.
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ay of March, 1769.

CHARLES TOWNLEY, CLARENCEUX.

ous family, except his oldest son Nicholas, who concurred with his father in selling the estate at Littleton, had a handsome fortune paid Nicholas was for many years before his death maintained at the sole charge of his son, Charles Townley.

milies, reduced to writing, and signed by the living representative. All the old family pedigrees extend back

12. { Margaret, }
 13. { Cicely, } both nuns, and died at Fesser, St. Victoir, Paris.

Charles Townley, the third son and sole heir of his father, married Ursula Fermor, and had five sons, of whom Richard (4) Townley married Mary, daughter of Lord Widdrington, and had two sons; of these William (5) Townley (born 1714, died 1741) married Cecilia, daughter and heir of Ralph Standish, by whom he had three sons, who all died without issue.

The Townley property then passed to William's (5) brother John (5), whose grandson, Colonel Charles Townley, of Townley Hall, died Nov. 4, 1876. The entail was cut off in the lifetime of the said Colonel Charles Townley, who, leaving no sons, was succeeded on his death by his younger brother, Colonel John Townley, who died 1879, and who had only one son, Richard Henry Townley, who predeceased his father, *Colonel John Townley*, thus closing the Townley family in the male line. The Colonel Charles Townley mentioned above left three daughters, who succeeded to the property.

The eldest married Lord Norreys; the second married Lord Lennox, and the youngest Lord O'Hagan, two Irish gentlemen.

The estate is now divided into three portions, occupied by one daughter and her husband respectively. Lord Norreys is now in possession of his wife's rights of Townley Hall, where he now resides. The Standish property went to William's grandson in the female line.

TOWNLEY GENEALOGY.

TOWNLEY GENEALOGY.

CHAPTER VI.

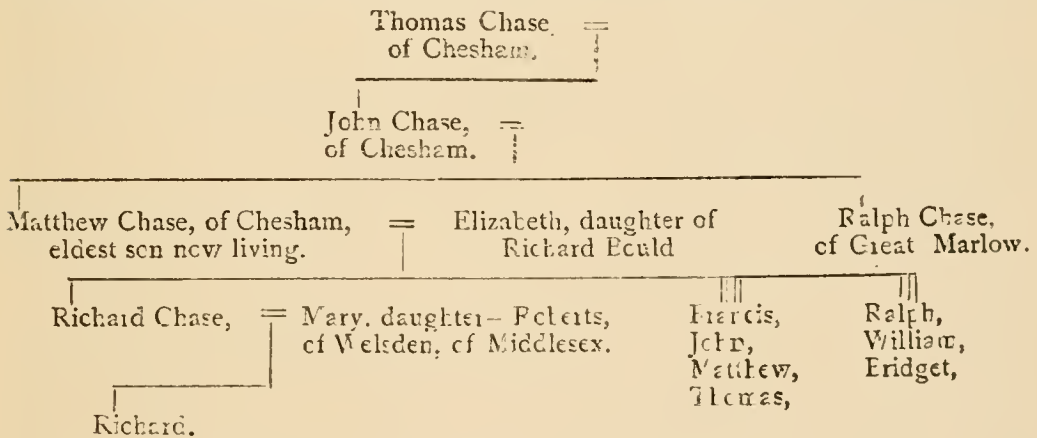
THE CHASE FAMILY GENEALOGY.

An old story, and one often though never wholly told, is that which at one time called "Lord Townley's Estate," at another, the "Chase Inheritance," ran through our New England press about twenty years since, setting forth with much apparent precision the conditions under which vast landed estates, with centuries of accumulated rental, awaited the decision of the English Chancery Courts in favor of the lawful heirs of Aquila and Thomas Chase, brothers, who settled in New England soon after the landing of the Pilgrims. There are many respectable people in Massachusetts, shrewd and cautious otherwise in all their dealings, who still declare that there is "something in it," and who, while unable to tell even the names of their grandfathers, are, or till quite recently were, ready to subscribe money to test the claims of ancestors from whom they cannot and never have undertaken to prove descent. The late Mr. Theodore Chase, of Boston, as the possessor by inheritance of some of the family papers of Aquila Chase, who was one of the first settlers and grantees of Hampton in 1639 or 1640, was often applied to by persons of the name when the periodic excitement relative to these fancied claims arose. Yet while he possessed and carefully preserved many records and papers relating to each generation of his family in this country, proving his descent from Aquila, of Hampton, he had never himself instituted any search for traces of his family in England, and was unable to give any information beyond the simple but essential fact, which, wearied at last by the calls for information that were made upon him, he caused Messrs. Baring Bros. & Co., of 8 Bishopgate Street, London, to obtain from their legal advisers—that there were no estates awaiting heirs of the names of Chase or Townley in Chancery at all. A short time after his death in 1859, the story was revived, and inquiries were made of Mr. George B. Chase, by several respectable people of Essex County, who had agreed to raise funds for a new investigation in England; a scheme, however, which fell at once to the ground on their learning from him that their first course, even if they believed in the existence of the estates in chancery, was to find out the names and dates of birth of their grandfathers, of which all but one of

their number were ignorant. In 1861, Mr. Theodore Chase's voluminous collection of papers were submitted to Mr. Somerby for classification and to enable him to take full notes, for investigations to be pursued by him on his return to England in the spring of that year. Mr. Somerby's investigations, which were very diligent and thorough, and which led him among the records of every county in England, continued at intervals for some years, until he had noted the names and dates of birth of all of the name of Chase during the latter half of the sixteenth and early part of the seventeenth centuries.

From them we extract the following pedigrees and the facts relating to them.

In the Herald's Visitation of Buckinghamshire in 1634, the following pedigree, appears entered by Matthew Chase, which we copy, as follows :



As Aquila Chase was supposed to have come from Cornwall, no importance had ever been attached to this pedigree by the American genealogists, and Mr. Somerby, influenced by the traditions that Aquila and Thomas Chase were mariners, had searched in vain for some months the records of Cornwall, Hampshire, Kent, and other sea-coast counties, for traces or indications of the emigrant's family. Cornwall, especially, had been most diligently searched, as Mr. Coffin, in his "History of Newbury," had stated that Aquila Chase was from that county.

Although Mr. Coffin had, upon inquiry, stated to Mr. Somerby, as he had also done to the writer, that this statement rested merely upon tradition, it led at the outset to the most thorough investigation of that county's registers. Turning at last to the interior, and recurring to the above pedigree, Mr. Somerby visited Chesham to examine its parish register, which, from the time of 1538, he found complete to the present day, with the exception of baptisms in the reign of Queen Mary. From the larger pedigree made by him from this register, we give the following extract, which shows the births of two brothers, Aquila and Thomas Chase, towards the end of the sixteenth century.

Thomas (1) Chase, of Hundrich, in the parish of Chesham.

John (2) Chase, of Hundrich, bap. Nov. 30, 1540.

Richard (2) Chase, of Chesham, bap. Aug. 3, 1542.

Agnes (2), bap. Jan. 9, 1551.

William (2), born in the reign of Queen Mary.

Christian (2), " " " "

Richard (2) Chase, of Chesham, m. Joan Bishop, April 16, 1564.

Their children were:

Robert (3), bap. Sept. 2, 1565. Henry (3), bap. Aug. 10, 1567.

Lydia (3), " Oct. 4, 1573. Ezekiel (3), " April 23, 1576.

Dorcas (3), " Mar. 2, 1578. Aquila (3), " Aug. 14, 1580.

Jason (3), " Jan. 13, 1583. Thomas (3), " July 18, 1585.

Abigail (3), " Jan. 12, 1588. Mordecai " July 31, 1591.

The discovery of the unique name of Aquila, found nowhere else in England, before or since, in any records of families bearing the name of Chase, was deemed conclusive proof by Mr. Somerby, as it has since been by other distinguished antiquarians, of the identity of the American with the English families.

The date of birth coincided with another tradition lingering in some branches of the American family, that Aquila Chase, of Newbury, had called his first son, but the fifth child that was born to him, after his father's name as well as his own; "that Aquila the first, was Aquila the second, too." The register at Chesham contains no other mention of Aquila, Thomas, and Mordecai, than the record of their births. Of the seven remaining children of Richard Chase, their marriages or deaths, in some cases both, are recorded.

Aquila (3) Chase married ———, and had

Thomas (4).

Aquila (4), born 1618.

The following is information furnished by different members of the Chase family, also extracts from the pedigree made by Mr. J. F. Chase : The number bearing this name in the United States is very large. Nearly all of them are the descendants of William, Thomas, or Acquila Chase. The name is sometimes spelled Chace, but the true spelling is Chase, as all of those above mentioned spelled the name with an s.

William Chase was the first of the name in the United States. He came with the fleet which brought Governor Winthrop and his colony. On the records of the first church in Roxbury, now called Boston Highlands, is the following in the handwriting of the Rev. John Elliott, commonly called the Apostle to the Indians, who was the first pastor of that church.

"William Chase. He came with the first company (1630), bringing

with him his wife, Mary, and his eldest son, William. He also states that his wife was sick for a long time, but that she afterwards recovered, and bore him a daughter; that in 1637 he went, intending (to go), to Scituate, but instead went with a company who made a new settlement at Yarmouth.

"He resided in this latter place until the time of his death in May, 1659, leaving a widow, Mary, and two sons, William and Benjamin.

"His widow was found dead in October of the same year, and a coroner's inquest decided that she died a natural death.

"Thomas and Aquila were among the first settlers of Hampton, N. H., in 1639.

"Thomas continued his residence in Hampton during his life.

"He married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Philbrick. He died at Hampton in 1652. His widow, m. 2, 8 mo. 26, 1654, John Garland, who died Jan. 4, 1671; m. 3 Feb. 19, 1677, Judge Henry Roby.

"Aquila was born 1618; d. Dec. 27, 1670."

About the year 1646, he removed to Newbury, where he remained until his death. He married Ann Wheeler, daughter of John Wheeler, who died May, 1688.

THE CHILDREN OF WILLIAM 1 AND MARY.

- I. WILLIAM, 2 b. about 1622, m. —.
- II. Mary, 2 b. 1637, d. unm. 1652.
- III. Benjamin, 2 b. 1639, m. Philippe Sherman, d. of John and Sarah.

THE CHILDREN OF WILLIAM 2 WERE :

- I. William, 3 b. —, m. $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{1st, Hannah Sherman, sister of Phi-} \\ \text{lippe.} \\ \text{2d, Dec. 6, 1732, Priscilla Perry.} \end{array} \right.$
- II. Jacob, 3 b. —, m. Mary —.
- III. John, 3 —, m. 1674 or '75, Elizabeth Baker.
- IV. Elizabeth, 3 b. —, m. May 27, 1674, Daniel Baker.
- V. Abraham, 3 b. —, m. Elizabeth —.
- VI. Joseph, 3 b. —, m. Feb. 28, 1694, Sarah Sherman, d. of Sampson.*
- VII. Benjamin, 3 b. —, m. Sept. 21, 1696, Amey Borden, d. of John.
- VIII. SAMUEL, 3 b. —, m. —, 1699, SARAH SHERMAN, d. of Samuel.*

THE CHILDREN OF BENJAMIN AND PHILIPPE SHERMAN.

- I. Mary, 3 b. —, m. 1st, Thomas Makepeace, 2d, — Grinnell.
- II. Sarah, 3 b. —, m. —, — Hathaway.
- III. Philippe, 3 b. July 5, 1679, m. Jan. 28, 1697, Jacob Hathaway.

* Sampson and Samuel were sons of John and Sarah Sherman.

IV. Benjamin, 3 b. July 15, 1682, m. June 23, 1703, Mercy Simmons.

V. Walter, 3 b. Oct. 23, 1684, m. Jan. 29, 1707, Deliverance Simmons.

VI. Barthiah, 3 b. Dec. 3, 1686, m. June 19, 1706, Joseph Durham.

THE CHILDREN OF WILLIAM 3 AND HANNAH SHERMAN, B. FEB., 1647.

I. William, 4 b. —, m. May 27, 1701, Sarah Carter.

II. Eber, 4 b. —, m. Oct. 22, 1706, Mary Knowles.

III. Isaac, 4 b. —, m. 1st, 12 mo. 10, 1704, Elizabeth Blither; 2d, 9 mo. 2, 1720, Mary Fowler.

IV. Nathaniel, 4 b. —, m. Nov. 2, 1703, Abigail Sherman.

V. Joseph, 4 b. —, m. Aug. 10, 1710, Abigail Tucker.

VI. Hezekiah, 4 b. —, m. July 24, 1717, Jale Pierce.

THE CHILDREN OF JACOB 3 AND MARY.

I. Isaac, 4 b. —, m. —; — Monroe.

II. Oliver, 4 b. —, m. 1st, Comfort Horton, 2d, Aug. 9, 1764, Mary Wheaton.

III. Hannah, 4 b. —, m. (? Dec. 1, 1720, Benjamin ?) Read.

IV. Mary, 4 b. —, m. (? Sept. 15, 1726, Thomas ?) Woodmaney.

V. Jacob, 4 b. —, m. Jan. 13, 1708, Alice Bowen.

VI. Samuel, 4 b. —, m. 1st, Sept. 13, 1716, Mary Vose; 2d, Dec. 31, 1730, Sarah Vose.

VII. Ephraim, 4 b. —, m. (? 1st Apr. 26, 1721, Mary Rounds), 2d, Oct. 25, 1722, Elizabeth Bowen.

VIII. Joshua, 4 b. —, m. 1st, Sarah Joyce; 2d, March 18, 1731, Hannah Bosworth.

IX. Joseph, 4 b. —, m. May 27, 1725, Sarah Carter.

THE CHILDREN OF JOHN 3 AND ELIZABETH BAKER.

I. John, 4 b. Apr. 6, 1675, m. Sarah.

II. Thomas, 4 b. —, m. Sarah (? Gowell.)

III. Jonathan, 4 b. —, m. 1709, Sarah Green.

IV. William, 4 b. —, m. 1st, Sept. 20, 1715, Dorcas Baker; 2d, Oct. 15, 1747, Patience Walker.

V. Jeremiah, 4 b. —, m. Sept. 11, 1719, Hannah Baker.

VI. Isaac, 4 b. —, m. 1st, May 23, 1706, Mary Berry; 2d, June 28, 1707, Charity O'Kelley.

THE CHILDREN OF ELIZABETH 3 AND DANIEL BAKER.

I. Daniel, 4 b. April 15, 1675.

II. Samuel, 4 b. Oct. 15, 1676.

III. Hannah, 4 b. —.

IV. Daniel, 4 b. —.

V. Elizabeth, 4 b. 1696.

VI. Thankful, 4 b. —, 1698.

VII. Tabitha, 4 b. Oct. —, 1700.

THE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM 3 AND ELIZABETH.

- I. Josiah, 4 b. —, m. March 31, 1719, Mary Hornbrook.
- II. Abraham, 4 b. —.
- III. Phineas, 4 b. —, 1693, m. July 1, 1719, Desire Wing.
- IV. Henry, 4 b. —, m. 1st, Jan. 17, 1735, Mary Tripp; 2d, Nov. 13, 1747, Sarah Durfee.
- V. Elizabeth, 4 b. —, m. —, — Chisson, prob. Chilson.
- VI. Mary, 4 b. —, m. April 16, 1741, Ammi Chase, g. son of Benjamin and Philippe.
- VII. Tabitha, 4 b. —, m. —, James Pettey.
- VIII. Johanna, 4 b. —, m. —, — Otis.
- IX. Experience, 4 b. —, m. 2 mo. 13, 1744, Thomas Smith.
- X. Malisent, 4 b. m—, — Crandall.

THE CHILDREN OF JOSEPH 3 AND SARAH SHERMAN.

- I. Abigail, 4 b. 5 mo. 6, 1695, m. June 27, 1720, John Davis.
- II. Lydia, 4 b. 8 mo. 18, 1696, m. March 1, 1716, Thomas Davis.
- III. Job, 4 b. 11 mo. 21, 1698, m. 9 mo. 6, 1718, Patience Bowen.
- IV. Alice, 4 b. 9 mo. 16, 1700, died unmarried.
- V. Ruth, 4 b. 2 mo. 15, 1702, died young.
- VI. Samson, 4 b. 2 mo. 1, 1704, died young.
- VII. Isabel, 4 b. 8 mo. 6, 1705, m. 6 mo. 8, 1726, Benjamin Buffinton.
- VIII. Joseph, 4 b. 5 mo. 11, 1707, died young.
- IX. Stephen, 4 b. 3 mo. 2, 1709, m. 1st, 9 mo. 11, 1728, Esther Buffinton, 2d, 12 mo. 20, 1751, Bashaby Stafford.
- X. Sarah, 4 b. —, m. 11 mo. 26, 1730, George Shove.
- XI. Silas, 4 b. —, m. 1st, 10 mo. 20, 1733, Hannah Buffinton, 2d, 1 mo. 27, 1774, Sarah Chase, widow of Elisha.
- XII. George, 4 b. —, m. 2 mo. 8, 1737, Lydia Shove.
- XIII. Ebenezer, 4 b. —, died young.
- XIV. Moses, 4 b. —, m. 1 mo. 25, 1742, Alice Sherman.

THE CHILDREN OF BENJAMIN 3 AND AMEY BORDEN.

- I. Patience, 4 b. 2 mo. 16, 1699.
- II. Elizabeth, 4 b. 4 mo. 16, 1701, m. Sept. 17, 1730, Job Durfee.
- III. Amey, 4 b. 5 mo. 21, 1702.
- IV. Nathan, 4 b. 11 mo. 13, 1704, m. April 29, 1731, Elizabeth Shaw.
- V. Benjamin, 4 b. —.
- VI. Abner, 4 b. —, never married.

THE CHILDREN OF SAMUEL 3 AND SARAH SHERMAN.

- I. Phebe, 4 b. Jan. 22, 1700, m. Dec. 6, 1720, Edward Slead.
- II. Martha, 4 b. Feb. 24, 1702, m. 1st, Ezekiel Fowler, 2d, May 11, 1749, Samuel Bowen.
- III. Susana, 4 b. April 7, 1704, m. —, 1726, William Buffinton.
- IV. ELISHA, 4 b. May 5, 1706, m. Oct. 20, 1726, ELIZABETH WHEATON, 2d, Jan. 16, 1746, Sarah Tucker.
- V. Samuel, 4 b. Jan. 20, 1710, m. Aug. 13, 1730, Abigail Buffum.
- VI. Eleazer, 4 b. April 27, 1711, m. May 26, 1730, Ruth Perry.

- VII. Philip, 4 b. Aug. 20, 1715, m. Nov. 18, 1735, Hannah Buffum.
- VIII. John, 4 b. Dec. 8, 1720, m. Jan. 18, 1744, Lydia Luther.
- IX. Sarah, 4 b. 1722, m. —, 1740, Daniel Baker.

THE CHILDREN OF BENJAMIN 3 AND MERCY SIMMONS.

- I. Benjamin, 4 b. March 28, 1704, m. Sept. 27, 1730, Mary Briggs.
 - II. Oliver, 4 b. Sept. 22, 1709, m. March 22, 1735, Elizabeth Cleveland.
 - III. —, b. October 11, 1711, died soon after birth.
 - IV. Michael, 4 b. Nov. 17, 1714, m. Feb. 1, 1739, Thankful Cleveland.
 - V. Israel, 4 b. June 25, 1716, m. —, 1741, Wealthy Kean.
 - VI. Ammi, 4 b. June 11, 1718, m. April 16, 1741, Mary Chase, daughter of Abraham and Elizabeth.
 - VII. Caleb, 4
 - VIII. Joshua, 4
- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| } | twins, b. May 25, 1722, | { | m. Feb. 24, 1740, Ruth
Payne, 2d, May 13, 1762,
Sarah Chase, daughter of
Elisha, of Swansea.
Sarah Chase, daughter of
Elisha, of Swansea. |
|---|-------------------------|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

THE CHILDREN OF WALTER 3 AND DELIVERANCE SIMMONS.

- I. Edward, 4 b. Jan. 24, 1708, died —, 1735.
- II. Constant, 4 b. April 26, 1710, died Aug. 26, 1710.
- III. Seth, 4 b. Oct. 4, 1711, m. 1st, —, 1739, Abigail Briggs, 2d, Nov. 16, 1752, widow Philippe Paine, née Strange.
- IV. Philip, 4 b. —, m. July 14, 1736, Sarah Cushman.
- V. Sybil, 4 b. —, m. March 19, 1735, James Cudworth.
- VI. Walter, 4 b. —, m. —, Anna Simmons.
- VII. George, 4 b. 1719, m. Sept. 11, 1741, Mary Strange.
- VIII. Charles, 4 b. —, m. 1st, Jan. 19, 1744, Abigail Strange, 2d, Dec. 9, 1762, Huldah Hathaway.
- IX. Sarah, 4 b. —, m. —, — Arnold.
- X. Hannah, 4 b. — m. —, —.
- XI. Alice, 4 b. —, m. —, — Crapo.
- XII. Benjamin, 4 b. —, m. Sept. 12, 1751, Mary Baggs.

THE CHILDREN OF THOMAS 1 AND ELIZABETH PHILBRICK WERE :

- I. Thomas, 2 b. 1642, d. unmarried, Oct. 23, 1714.
- II. Joseph, 2 b. 1645, m. Jan. 31, 1671, Rachel Partridge.
- III. Isaac, 2 b. April 1, 1647, m. 1st, Feb. 20, 1673, Mary Perkins, m. 2d, Oct. 5, 1675, Mary Tilton.
- IV. James, 2 b. 1649, m. Sept. 2, 1675, Elizabeth Green.
- V. Abraham, 2 b. Aug. 6, 1651, unmarried, "was killed in ye warres" 1676.

THE CHILDREN OF JOSEPH 2 AND RACHEL PARTRIDGE WERE :

- I. Hannah, 3 b. June 5, 1672, d. Dec. 4, 1674.
- II. Elizabeth, 3 b. Nov. 4, 1674, d. Dec. 8, 1675.
- III. Jonothan, 3 b. March 14, 1676, drowned at Pawcatuck, Feb. 1, 1696.

IV. Anne, 3 b. Jan. 9, 1678, m. 1st, Aug. 21, 1697, Bradstreet Wiggin, 2d, ——— St. Clair.

V. Elizabeth, 3 b. Feb. 14, 1685, m. ——— 1706, Benjamin Hilliard.

VI. Rachel, 3 b. April 27, 1687, m. 1st, 8 mo. 7, Rev. Jacob Frieze, m. 2d, Jan. 4, 1737, Andrew Wiggin.

Mary Perkins, the first wife of Isaac, left no children.

THE CHILDREN OF ISAAC 2, COMMONLY CALLED LIEUTENANT ISAAC, AND MARY TILTON WERE :

I. Thomas, 3 b. Nov. 19, 1677, m. Feb. 21, 1704, Jean Smith.

II. Rachel, 3 b. Oct. 25, 1679, m. July 19, 1700, Samuel Knight.

III. Isaac, 3 b. Feb. 21, 1681, m. April 3, 1702, Mary Pease.

IV. Abraham, 3 b. Jan. 10, 1683, m. 1st, ———, Abigail Barnard, m. 2d, March 5, 1732, Mercy Nickerson.

V. James, 3 b. Jan. 15, 1685, m. ———, Rachael Brown.

VI. Mary, 3 b. Jan. 17, 1687, m. June 14, 1704, Beniah Weeks.

VII. Joseph, 3 b. Feb. 26, 1689, m. Sept. 16, 1714, Lydia Coffin.

VIII. Jonothan, 3 b. Dec. 28, 1691, m. ———, Mehitable ———

IX. Hannah, 3 b. Nov. 25, 1693, m. Dec. 31, 1712, Nathan Pease.

X. Sarah, b. Oct. 15, 1695, m. June 27, 1716, Samuel Cobb.

XI. Priscilla, 3 b. Nov. 12, 1697, m. Nov. 18, 1718, Nathaniel Foler.

XII. Elizabeth, 3 b. Sept. 7, 1703, unm., d. ———, 1719.

Isaac 2 d. May 19, 1727. Widow Mary d. 1746, aged 88.

THE CHILDREN OF JAMES 2 AND ELIZABETH GREEN.

I. Abigail, b. Aug. 27, 1681, m. John Chase, 3 son of Anne 2 of Aquila 1.

II. Dorothy, 3 b. March 16, 1685 or 6, m. March 16, 1705, John Chapman.

III. Mary, 3 b. Feb. or May 8, 1688.

James 2 d. about 1704. Widow Elizabeth m. 2d, 1707, John Cass.

THE CHILDREN OF THOMAS 3 AND JEAN SMITH WERE :

I. Thomas, 4 b. Dec. 29, 1713, m. Aug. 16, 1733, Elizabeth Athern.

II. Sarah, 4 b. Dec. 14, 1717, m. ———, 1733, Vernal Daggett, m. 2, ———, Ichabod Allen.

Thomas 3 d. Dec. 2, 1721. Widow Jean m. 2d, May 15, 1724, Thomas Cathcart.

THE CHILDREN OF ISAAC 3 AND MARY PEASE WERE :

I. Nathan, 4 b. July 16, 1702, m. Aug. 24, 1723, Parnal Long.

II. Cornelius, 4 b. July 14, 1705, unm.

III. Stephen, 4 b. Dec. 24, 1708, m. 1st, Sept. 7, 1730, Patience Marshall, m. 2d, Jan. 3, 1742 or 4, Dinah Folger.

IV. Isaac, 4 b. July 15, 1712, m. Feb. 24, 1736, Mary Coffin.

V. Joseph, 4, b. Sept. 22, 1713, m. 10 mo. 26, 1737, Miriam Coffin.

VI. Lovey, 4 b. March 30, 1716.

Isaac, 3 d. ———, 1721.

THE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM 3 AND 1ST WIFE, ABIGAIL BARNARD.

- I. Mary, 4 b. —, m. Sept. 23, 1731, Reuben Bunker.
- II. Eleanor, 4 b. Oct. 8, 1712, m. Nov. 29, 1734, James Long.
- III. Abigail, 4 b. Aug. 30, 1714, m. — John Whelden.
- IV. Abraham, 4 b. Feb. 14, 1716, m. — Elizabeth Bourne.
- V. Timothy, 4 b. July 23, 1717.
- VI. Hannah, 4 b. March 15, 1725, m. 1st, Sept. 21, 1742, John Ferguson ; m. 2d, March 28, 1769, Christopher Luce.

THE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM 3 AND MERCY NICKERSON.

- VII. Valentine, 4 b. June 15, 1735, m. —, Eunice Chase.
- VIII. Zacheus, 4 b. June 15, 1737, m. Feb. 22, 1759, Hannah Butler.
- IX. David, 4 b. June 4, 1739.
- X. Wait Still Mercy, 4 b. April 9, 1741, m. 1st, July 3, 1758, John West, m. 2d —, Jeremiah Crapo.
- XI. Margaret, 4 b. May 21, 1750, m. April 11, 1769, Samuel Look. Abraham 3 d. Dec. 20, 1763.

THE CHILDREN OF JAMES 3 AND RACHEL BROWN.

- I. Anna, 4 b. April 22, 1709, m. Dec. 5, 1733, Timothy Folger.
- II. Benjamin, 4 b. Aug. 28, 1710, m. Dec. 12, 1734, Margaret Gardner.
- III. Rachel, 4 b. Aug. 30, 1712, m. Feb. 18, 1730, Peter Fitch.
- IV. James, 4 b. July 31, 1715, m. Dec. 15, 1737, Anna Gardner.
- V. Brown, 4 b. March 13, 1718.
- VI. Elizabeth, 4 b. Feb. 16, 1720, m. —, George Gardner.
- VII. Jedediah, 4 b. Feb. 15, 1723, m. Feb. 16, 1744, Robert Barker.

THE CHILDREN OF JOSEPH 3 AND LYDIA COFFIN were :

- I. Abel, 4 b. Oct. 9, 1719, m. Feb. 14, 1744, Mercy Mayhew.
- II. Mary, 4 b. Feb. 9, 1721, m. Oct. 4, 1748, David Dunham.
- III. Priscilla, 4 b. —, m. March 17, 1741, Henry Smith.
- IV. Damaris, 4 b. May 12, 1724, m. —, Peter Ripley.
- V. Lydia, 4 b. —, m. —, Shubael Dunham.
- VI. Rachel, 4 b. —, m. July 9, 1769, Thomas Givin.
- VII. Joseph, 4 b. —, supposed to be drowned.
- VIII. Thomas, 4 b. —, m. 1st, —, Anna Fields ; 2d, —, Elizabeth Collins.
- IX. Sarah, 4 b. April 7, 1735, m. Oct. 1, 1753, Seth Pease.
- X. Benjamin, 4 b. May 14, 1737.

Of the children of Jonothan 3 and Mehitable I know nothing as yet.

THE CHILDREN OF ABIGAIL 3 AND JOHN CHASE 3, B. DEC. 23, 1669,
SON OF ANNA 2, OF AQUILA 1, were :

- I. James, 4 b. July 28, 1696.
- II. Jonathan, 4 b. Oct. 21, 1700, m. Dec. 18, 1723, Patience Heath.
- III. Elizabeth, 4 b. April 13, 1703.

- IV. Elihu, 4 b. Sept. 7, 1705, m. 1st, Dec. 9, 1730, Mary Swain;
2d, —.
- V. John, 4 b. Sept. 18, 1708, m. March 27, 1729, Anna Runlet.
- VI. Hannah, 4 b. May 10, 1711, m. Oct. 1, 1730, Thomas Fuller.

THE CHILDREN OF AQUILA 1 AND ANN WHEELER WERE:

- I. Sarah, 2 b. —, m. May 15, 1666, Charles Annis.
- II. Anne, 2 b. July 6, 1647, m. April 27, 1671, Thomas Barber.
- III. Priscilla, 2 b. March 14, 1649, m. Feb. 10, 1671, Abel Merrill.
- IV. Mary, 2 b. Feb. 3, 1651, m. March 9, 1670, John Stevens.
- V. Aquila, 2 b. Sept. 27, 1652, m. —, Esther Bond.
- VI. Thomas, 2 b. July 25, 1654, m. 1st, Nov. 22, 1677, Rebecca Follansbee, 2d, Aug. 2, 1713, Elizabeth Mowers.
- VII. John, 2 b. Nov. 2, 1655, m. 1st, May 23, 1677, Elizabeth Bingley, 2d, —, Lydia —.
- VIII. Elizabeth, 2 b. Sept. 13, 1657, m. June 27, 1678, Zachariah Ayer.
- IX. Ruth, 2 b. March, 18, 1660, d. May 30, 1676.
- X. Daniel, 2 b. Dec. 9, 1661, m. May 25, 1683, Martha Kimball.
- XI. Moses, 2 b. Dec. 24, 1663, m. 1st, Nov. 10, 1684, Ann Follansbee, 2d, Dec. 13, 1713, Sarah Jacobs.
- Ann, widow of Aquila m. June 14, 1672, Daniel Mussiloway.

THE CHILDREN OF ANNE 2 WERE:

- I. John, 3 b. Dec. 23, 1669, m. —, Abigail Chase, 3, of James 2, of Thomas 1.
- Ann, 2 m. April 27, 1671, Thomas Barber.

THEIR CHILDREN WERE:

- II. Thomas, 3 b. Feb. 16, 1672.
- III. Alice, 3 b. March 3, 1674.

THE CHILDREN OF AQUILA 2 AND ESTHER BOND.

- I. Esther, 3 b. Nov. 28, 1674, m. —, Daniel Merrill.
- II. Joseph, 3 b. March 25, 1677, m. Nov. 8, 1699, Abigail Thurston.
- III. Ann, 3 b. April 4, 1678, m. Oct. 27, 1703, Abraham Foulshar.
- IV. Priscilla, 3 b. Oct. 15, 1681, m. —, 1704, Joseph Hill.
- V. Jemima, 3 b. —, m. Sept. —, 1721, Peter Ordway.
- VI. Rebecca, 3 b. —, m. Dec. 5, 1716, Jonathan Moulton.
- VII. Hannah, 3 b. —, 1689, m. Dec. 22, 1707, Joseph Hoyt.
- VIII. Abigail, 3 b. —, m. Oct., 1710, Joseph Robinson.
- IX. Benjamin, 3 b. —, m. May 20, 1718, Sarah Bailey.

THE CHILDREN OF THOMAS 2 AND REBECCA FOLLANSBEE WERE:

- I. Thomas, 3 b. Sept. 15, 1680, m. —, Sarah —.
- II. Jonathan, 3 b. Jan. 13, 1683, m. —, 1703, Joanna Palmer.
- III. James, 3 b. Sept. 15, 1685, m. 1st. —, Lydia —, 2d, Dec. 17, 1707, Martha Rolfe.

- IV. Aquila, 3 b. July 15, 1688, m. —, 1712, Mary Smith.
- V. Ruth, 3 b. Feb. 28, 1691, m. May 29, 1716, Nathaniel Miller.
- VI. Mary, 3 b. Jan. 15, 1695, m. —, Horton.
- VII. Josiah, 3 b. July 15, 1697, d. young.
- VIII. Rebecca, 3 b. April 26, 1700, m. Dec. 14, 1721, Stephen Moulton.
- IX. Nathan, 3 b. —, 1704, m. 1st. Nov. 29, 1723, Judith Sawyer,
2d, Dec. 30, 1740, Joanna Cheney, 3d, Jan. 9, 1763, Ruth Davis.
- X. Judith, 3 b. — m. — Horton.
The first wife of Thomas 2 died, and he married 2d, Aug. 2, 1713, Elizabeth Mowers. Their child was:
- XI. Elizabeth, 3 b. July 9, 1715, m. Aug. 17, 1732, Benjamin Rogers

THE CHILDREN OF JOHN 2 BY 1ST WIFE, ELIZABETH BINGLEY, WERE :

- I. William, 3 b. Jan. 20, 1679, d. young.
- II. John 3 b. Aug. 26, 1684, m. —
- III. Philip, 3 b. Sept. 23, 1688, m. April 17, 1712, Mary Follansbee.

THE CHILDREN OF JOHN 2 BY 2D WIFE LYDIA — WERE :

- IV. Charles, 3 b. Jan. 12, 1690, m. July 15, 1714, Hepsibah Carr.
- V. Jacob, 3 b. —, m. Aug. 24, 1716, Joanna Davis.
- VI. Abraham, 3 b. —, m. 1st, Nov. 16, 1716, Ruth Morse ; 2d, —, Abigail —.
- VII. Phebe, 3 b. —, m. Aug. 25, 1726, Nathaniel Tucker.
- VIII. Mary, 3 b. —, m. July 30, 1728, Joseph Safford.
- IX. Lydia, 3 b. —, m. Nov. 5, 1724, William Blay.
- X. Elizabeth, 3 b. —.

THE CHILDREN OF DANIEL 2 AND MARTHA KIMBALL WERE :

- I. Martha, 3 b. Aug. 18, 1684, m. Aug. 3, 1716, David Lawson.
- II. Sarah, 3 b. July 18, 1686, m. Nov. 17, 1714, Francis Danforth.
- III. Dorothy, 3 b. Jan. 24, 1689.
- IV. Isaac, 3 b. Jan. 19, 1691, m. Oct. 29, 1710, Hannah Berry.
- V. Lydia, 3 b. Jan. 19, 1693, m. Jan. 30, 1716, William Evans.
- VI. Mehitabel, 3 b. Jan. 19, 1695, m. Nov. 19, 1715, Timothy Os-good.
- VII. Judith, 3 b. Feb. 19, 1697, m. Jan. 21, 1714, John Tuttle.
- VIII. Abner, 3 b. Oct. 15, 1699, m. Nov. 24, 1721, Elizabeth Whittier.
- IX. Daniel, 3 b. Oct. 15, 1702, m. 1st, Jan. 3, 1723, Mary Carpenter ;
2d, Feb. 12, 1726, Elizabeth Collins.
- X. Enoch, 3 b. —, m. Jan. 25, 1727, Judith Colby.
Daniel 2 died Feb. 8, 1707.
Martha, widow of Daniel 2, m. 2d, —, 1713, Josiah Heath.

THE CHILDREN OF ENSIGN MOSES 2 AND ANN FOLLANSBEE WERE :

- I. Moses, 3 } b. Sept. 20, 1685, d. young.
- II. Daniel, 3 } b. Sept. 20, 1685, m. Jan. 2, 1707, Sarah Marsh.
- III. Moses, 3 b. Jan. 20, 1688, m. Oct. 12, 1709, Elizabeth Wells.

- IV. Samuel, 3 b. May 13, 1690, m. Dec. 8, 1713, Hannah Emery.
 - V. Elizabeth, 3 b. Sept. 25, 1693, m. Dec. 14, 1708, John Carr.
 - VI. Stephen, 3 b. Aug. 29, 1697, m. Dec. —, 1717, Sarah Hale.
 - VII. Hannah, 3 b. Sept. 13, 1699, m. —, 1719, Green Whittier.
 - VIII. Joseph, 3 b. Sept. 9, 1703, m. Sept. 7, 1724, Mary Morse.
 - IX. Benoni, 3 b. April 5, 1708, m. Sept. 4, 1728, Mary Rogers.
- The 2d wife, Sarah Jacobs, had no children.

THE CHILDREN OF ABIGAIL 3 AND JOHN CHASE, 3 b. DEC. 23, 1669,
SON OF ANNA, 2, OF AQUILA, 1, WERE:

- I. James, 4 b. July 28, 1698.
- II. Jonathan, 4 b. Oct. 21, 1700, m. Dec. 18, 1723, Patience Heath.
- III. Elizabeth, 4 b. April 13, 1703.
- IV. Elihu, 4 b. Sept. 7, 1705, m. 1st, Dec. 9, 1730, Mary Swain,
2d, —.
- V. John, 4 b. Sept. 18, 1708, m. March 27, 1729, Anna Runlet.
- VI. Hannah, 4 b. May 10, 1711, m. Oct. 1, 1730, Thomas Fuller.

CHASE GENEALOGY.

CHASE GENEALOGY.

CHASE GENEALOGY.

CHAPTER VII.

THE LAWRENCE GENEALOGY.

INCLUDING OTHER GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION APPERTAINING TO THE FAMILY.

The claim of the Lawrences to a proved pedigree for 700 years is made in "*Holgate's American Genealogies*," also in the "*Historical Genealogy of the Lawrences*," by Thomas Lawrence, printed in 1858, and in other publications. I assert that, instead of the Lawrences of New York having "*a proved pedigree of more than 700 years*," they have no pedigree beyond the first settler here.

I cannot allow for a moment that a pedigree thus publicly put forth is sacred from investigation. The claim is simply this—that John, William and Thomas Lawrence were "*cousins*" of Henry Lawrence, the President of Cromwell's Council, a member of a family settled at St. Ives, county Hants, England. A pedigree is of value only so far as it is supported by evidence.

No one has yet given any authentic pedigree of the Lawrences of Ashton Hall.

Henry Lawrence, President of Cromwell's Council, "*may*" have been related to that family, but there is no *proof* of it on record.

No one knows the name of the father of *John, William and Thomas Lawrence, who came to New York in 1635*. How then can the family historian say that they were cousins of Henry Lawrence?

I desire to call attention to the fact that all the statements about the ancestry of the Lawrences are unsupported by a single fact, so far as I can learn from all the printed accounts. Not a citation is made from a parish record, will, or herald's visitation. If the family have any proofs, they should now be produced. It is assumed that *John, William and Thomas Lawrence, who came to New York in 1635, were cousins of Henry Lawrence*, the President of Cromwell's Council.

Leaving for the present the question of Henry Lawrence's pedigree, let us see if there be any proof that John, William and Thomas were at all related to him. We know from Drake's *Founders of New England* that in 1635 there embarked in the *Planter*, for New England, John Lawrence, aged 17; William Lawrence, aged 12; Mary Lawrence, aged 9, in company with John Tuttell, a mercer, and Joan Tuttell and four little Tuttells. Savage, under the name Tuttell, shows that John T. was, doubtless, stepfather to these three Lawrences.

These passengers, with others, had a certificate from the minister at St. Alban's, Hertfordshire, and it is a fair supposition that they came from that parish or vicinity.

The next step, in Holgate's *American Genealogy*, is to assume that John and William were the patentees at Flushing, L. I., in 1645, when one of them was aged 27 and the other 22 years. Holgate adds that Thomas Lawrence, of Newtown, L. I., was a brother to John and William, and that he died in 1703. From *A Historical Genealogy of the Lawrence Family*, by Thomas Lawrence (New York, 1858), p. 135, I learn that William Lawrence was licensed March 4th, 1664, to marry Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Smith. It further seems clear that William died in 1680, leaving seven young children by her, and a son William by a previous wife. John Lawrence, the emigrant, it is said, had three sons, who all died childless, and three daughters, through whom there are descendants. In the *Herald and Genealogist* (London, 1867), Vol. 4, p. 465, is a tabular pedigree of the Philadelphia family of Lawrences, said to spring from a Thomas Lawrence, born at Great St. Albans in 1666, emigrated to New England, died in 1739. It is a very strange pedigree and apparently needs much correction.

Lawrence Lawrence, son of Thomas, was born in 1700, and his daughter's will was proved in 1831; his granddaughter was born in 1776, and died in 1857. In the *Heraldic Journal* (Boston, 1868), vol. 4, pp. 35-38, will be found some notes about the English families of the name. There were numerous unconnected families, and the genealogy of the name has been marked by more than the usual number of mistakes. The main questions which concern your New York Lawrences are these three:

1. Were John, William and Thomas, relatives?
2. Were they born at St. Albans?
3. Who were their ancestors?

Until these questions are answered by proofs, such as parish records and wills, all repetitions of the well-known history of Henry Lawrence, and the Lawrences of Ashton Hall, are useless and ridiculous. After considerable search in the numerous publications about this family, I mus

confess that I have found not the slightest *proof* that William Lawrence was born at St. Albans, or of his father's name.

The pedigree stops with the emigrant.

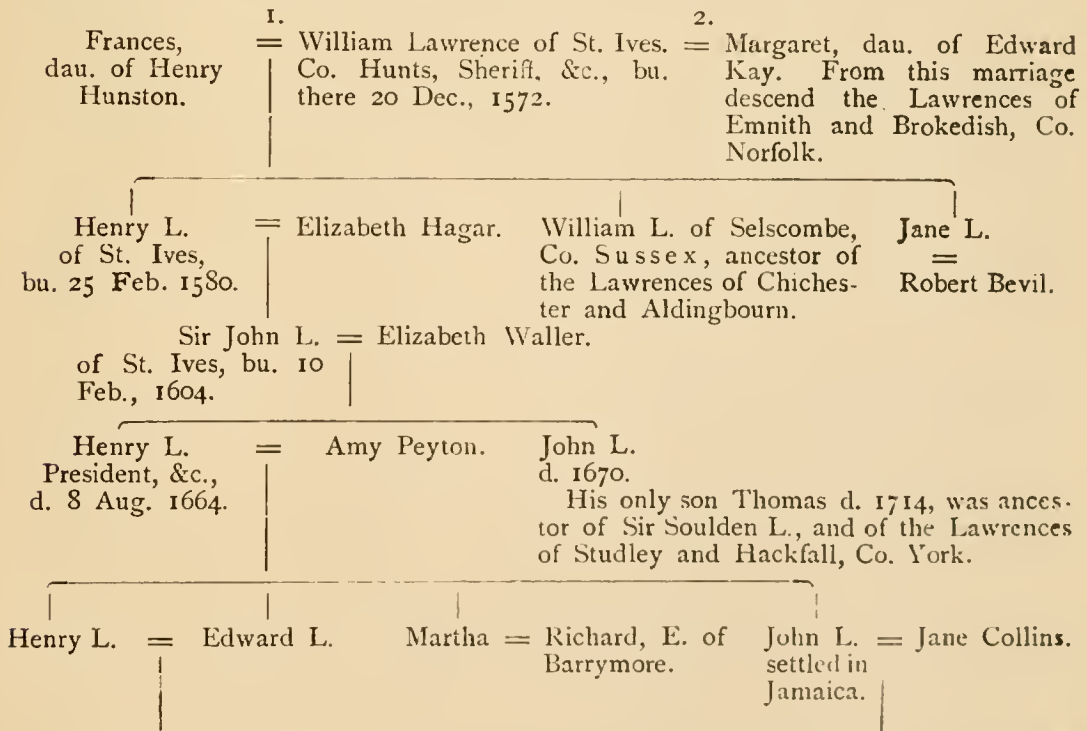
Genealogists well know that *family traditions* are almost worthless.

In this case, there is no proof of any old tradition, as to this connection with President Henry Lawrence. So much for controversy of this particular pedigree, which I repeat is *unsupported by a single fact, so far as I can learn from all printed accounts*. The Lawrences are neither better nor worse off than the rest of their fellow-citizens, whose *ascertained* pedigree stops with the emigrant hither.

Before I quit this topic, however, I will give such facts relative to the Henry Lawrence family as can be substantiated.

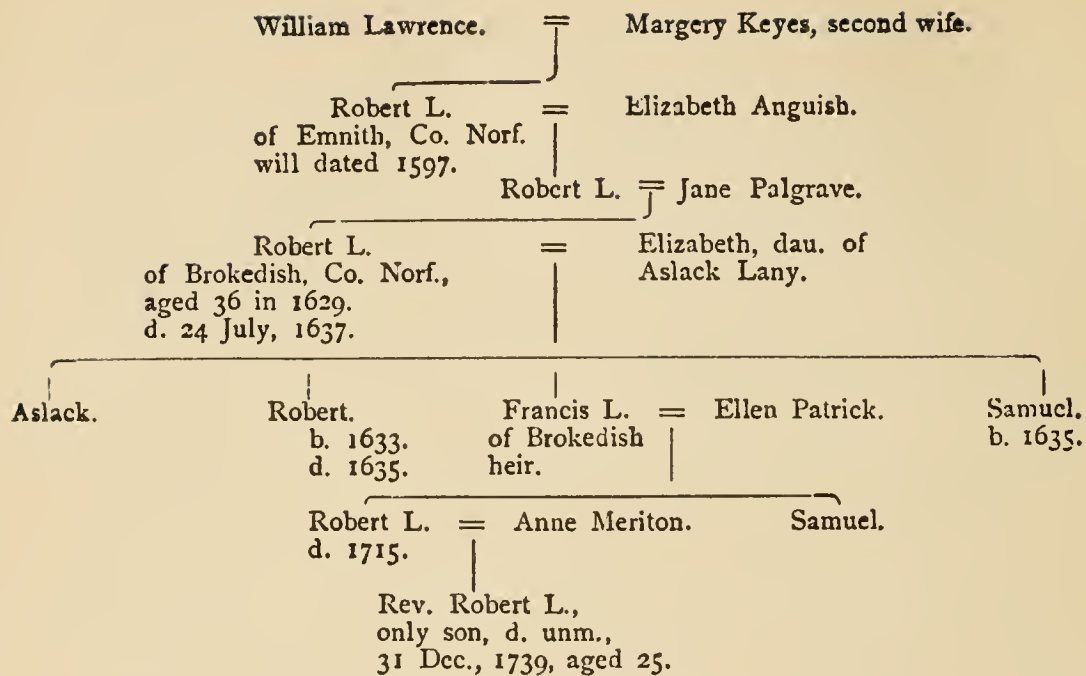
THE LAWRENCE PEDIGREE.

In *Hoare's Wiltshire* is a pedigree brought down to A. D. 1840, at least. I extract the generations touching the period of the settlement here.



I have also before me a copy of a manuscript pedigree, from Davy's Suffolk Collections in the British Museum, tracing the Lawrences of Emnith as follows: (I give only the male lines.)

This professes to trace the younger line of Lawrences. I give both only as pretending to show at least some of Henry Lawrence's distant relatives; but they are wholly unnecessary to my argument.



I think that in the face of such pedigrees as these, which purports to contain all the branches, and yet are silent about any at St. Albans, much less in America, something more than *family traditions or mere belief* is required to make us acknowledge the Long Island family as a branch of this one. But again, he states that Henry Lawrence, grandfather of the President, had besides, a son Sir John, another named William, who settled at Great St. Albans, and was the father of the emigrants. I must be allowed to point out that this is in flat contradiction to the authentic pedigree above quoted, and such evidence cannot be listened to for a moment. If the author or any one else has had search made at St. Albans, and could prove by parish records, or by wills, or any other respectable evidence, that the family of the emigrant was William, or that he was of the St. Ives family, I shall be most happy to have them do so. I will further remark, that even if the emigrant had used a seal of arms of the St. Ives Lawrence, it would not be sufficient proof that they were of that family. The highest English authorities on this subject are united on this point; such a use would be grounds for an investigation in that especial family, but alone it cannot suffice to render a family pedigree valid. The position of the Long Island family was such that it ought to be possible to trace their English ancestry. A small part of the money which has been spent in printing these fictitious pedigrees, might suffice to establish a true one. I certainly have no wish to depreciate the social position of any of the emigrants to this country, but I speak from experience, when I say that unfounded and injudicious claims to old English families have been the great obstacles

in England, to the recognition of our true pedigree. There is certainly no disgrace in confessing that any emigrant of good family did not have on record the proof of his ancestry, and that the pious care of his descendants is necessary to discover and perpetuate the connection.

In England, the rules of genealogical research have been greatly lightened within the last twenty years. The tone of the historical inquiries has been greatly improved, and precision is the first requisite; old pedigrees are daily revised and corrected, and many that passed muster a century ago are curtailed or superseded.

Having cited the curious Lawrence genealogy of 1858, I may be allowed to point out some of its errors (*See pp. 120, 124*).

An English fortune, rightfully belonging to American heirs. The property is called the Townley estate; and the story of this claim is based entirely on errors. The claim (*see p. 194*) is 1st, that Sir William Townley married Cecilia Standish, granddaughter of Henry, Sixth Duke of Norfolk; 2d, that Joseph Lawrence, son of William, the emigrant, married Mary, daughter of Sir Richard Townley (*p. 30*), and she inherited the property.

Now any English peerage will show that, 1st., Cecilia Standish, *who did marry William Townley, was not the sole heiress*, though she was one of the grandchildren of the Duke of Norfolk. 2d. That she has many descendants now living, *and they, of course, inherit any property she may have had*. Their names are recorded in Burke's *Landed Gentry*. But worse remains; there is no proof whatever that Joseph or John Lawrence had any wife, Mary Townley.

The family historian says (*page 30*) that she was the daughter of Sir Richard Townley, and that her sister married Francis, first Earl of Effingham; also that Joseph Lawrence was intimate with his brother-in-law, who commanded a frigate stationed here, and that his grandson, Effingham Lawrence, was named in honor of this lord. But the English peerage says that Francis, first Earl of Effingham, was a distinguished military officer, and had two wives, Diana O' Farrell, and Anne Bristow.

It is also confessed that tradition is the only authority for this marriage and the name and parentage of Joseph's wife.

The solution seems easy. William Lawrence, the emigrant, as we have seen, left a widow, who married, first, Sir Philip Carteret, and next, Colonel Richard Townley, of New Jersey. Littell (*Passaic Genealogies, p. 438*) says that this Colonel Townley had sons, Charles and Effingham Townley.

It is not unlikely that he may have had a daughter Mary (*a*) who mar-

(*a*) The destruction by fire of the church records of Elizabethtown, New Jersey, may account for the record of the birth of Mary, daughter of Richard Townley, not being found there.

ried her step-brother, Joseph Lawrence. At all events, this known marriage of William's widow will account for the name of Effingham in the Lawrence family. As aforesaid, looking only at the positive statement in the book of the *Lawrences' Genealogy*, that Dorothy Townley married Francis Howard, first Earl of Effingham, who died in 1743, I said that the Earl had two wives, but neither named Townley, according to the standard English authorities. The family historian states that Dorothy Townley married Francis Howard, first Earl of Effingham, Governor of Virginia, who died in 1694, and who was father of the above Earl.

Here he goes in defiance of the English peerage. I quote *Collins' Peerage* (Brydges's Edition, Vol. IV, p. 280), which states that this Francis Lord Howard married, first, Philadelphia, daughter of Sir Thomas Pelham, Baronet, and secondly, Susan, daughter of Sir Henry Felton, of Playford, County Suffolk, Baronet, and widow of Thomas Herbert. (a) *Family traditions* may be correct, and the English peerage may be all wrong, but surely I have a right to ask for some respectable proof when they contradict the standard authorities. I ask, therefore, for proof that Francis Howard, fifth Baron Howard of Effingham, married Dorothy, daughter of Richard Townley. I also ask for any proof that Thomas and Mary Townley came to New York, or that *any* Mary Townley married Joseph or John Lawrence, or William Chase, or anybody else, it being an indisputable fact that Mary Townley, daughter of Richard Townley and Margaret Paston, *died in 1680, at the age of 12 years*. See page 76. *Lawrence Genealogy* (p. 124) states that Cecilia, daughter of Ralph Standish, Esq., and Phillipa Howard, became, before her death, the sole heiress of her grandfather, Henry Howard, sixth Duke of Norfolk.

The said Cecilia Standish, married Sir William Townley. By said marriage the property became vested in the Townley family, and by defect of heirs descended to Mary Townley, who married Joseph Lawrence.

As aforesaid, Cecilia Standish was not the sole heiress of the Duke of

(a) I presume the errors occur in this way. The writer of the "Lawrence Genealogy" says that Dorothy Townley married Francis Howard of Corby, afterwards first Earl of Effingham, who died in 1743, but as the Earl never came to America, the marriage is changed to his father. But the Howards of Corby are a distinct family from the Howards, Barons and Earls of Effingham. The Effingham Howards descend from the second Duke of Norfolk; the Corby branch, a very distinguished one, sprang from the fourth Duke of Norfolk, three generations later. Burke says, though not confirmed by other authorities, that a Dorothy Townley did marry a Francis Howard of Corby. Would it be out of place to suggest that the author of the "Lawrence Genealogy" was unaware of the difference in the two branches, and supposed, wrongly, that Howard of Corby was Lord Effingham, for surely it is more likely that it is an error, than that all the English peerages are wrong as to the marriage of Lord Howard of Effingham?

Norfolk, and she has many living descendants to inherit any property she may have left. My authorities are the *English Peerages*, and Burke's *Landed Gentry*.

I will copy from Burke's, also other English authorities' account of the Townleys, condensing it slightly, which will show the manner in which the property descended from oldest son to oldest son, and is not divided among all equally.

(1.) Charles Townley was slain at Marston Moor. He married Mary Trappes, by whom he had four sons and three daughters. His eldest son and heir,

(2.) Richard Townley, married Margaret Paston and had seven sons and six daughters, to wit,

(1.) Clemant, } both died very young.
(2.) Richard, }

(3d.) Charles, sole heir to his father.

(4th.) John, died in infancy.

(5th.) John, a monk.

(6th.) Richard, born 1664.

(7th.) Thomas, born in 1666.

(8th.) Mary, born 1668, died 1680, and was buried as aforesaid in the Catholic Cemetery at Forde, near Little Crosby, which is located about ten miles north-east of Liverpool, in Lancaster County, where the Townleys have been buried for generations past; they being a noted Catholic family, and where they have a magnificent mausoleum.

Unscrupulous parties have represented that Mary Townley married Joseph or John Lawrence, and William Chase, whereas she married neither, but died as above stated; also, that the Townley property was unclaimed, whereas it never was unclaimed, but simply on the death of William, passed to his brother John, who had only one son who predeceased his father (see page 79), and on the death of John the property then reverted to the daughters of Sir Charles, who are now rightfully owning and enjoying the same.

(9th.) Anna, 1670.

(10th.) Dorothy, who married Francis Howard, of Corby, in Cumberland.

(11th.) Frances married Cuthbert Kennet, of Coxhow.

(12th.) } Margaret.

(13th.) { Cicely, both nuns, and died at Fessar, St. Victoir, Paris. Of these, Dorothy married as aforesaid.

Richard Townley died, January, 1706-7. His oldest surviving son,

Charles (3) Townley, married Ursula Fermor, and had five sons, of whom

Richard (4) Townley married Mary, daughter of Lord Widdrington, and had two sons; of these,

William (5) Townley (b. 1714, d. 1741) married Cecilia, daughter and heir of Ralph Standish, by his wife Lady Phillipa Howard, and had three sons, who all died without issue eventually.

The Townley property then passed to William's (5) brother John (5). See page 79. The Standish property went to William's grandson, in the female line.

So far Burke writes clearly, and I presume we must all accept his account of the Townley family, as thus published by the *representatives* of the family in England. Let me call attention to the Lawrences' genealogy (p. 124), which says they have proof of various things, but *excepting the marriage of Joseph Lawrence and Mary Townley*.

He attempts to strengthen his case by giving Lord Effingham a Townley wife, unknown to English genealogists, apparently to account for the name of Effingham Lawrence, grandson of Joseph. The plain truth seems to be, that this name of Effingham Lawrence has caused all the trouble. It is a fact allowed by both of us, that the widow of William Lawrence married Richard Townley, of New Jersey, who had a son Effingham Townley, and it is but reasonable to suppose that Richard Lawrence named a son after his step-uncle. To an unprejudiced observer, all this story seems to be a jumble of names and persons arising out of a mistaken *family tradition*. The explanation I have offered is only reasonable, I think.

As to this Effingham Lawrence, who is said to have been one of the Lords of the Admiralty, may I inquire when he held that office? I cannot find the name in Hady's *Book of Dignities*, which professes to give a complete list. It is, I believe, unusual for such an official to engage in business pursuits, as this Effingham Lawrence seems to have done.

In 1869, the third or fourth genealogy appeared of the Lawrences of New England, descended from John Lawrence, of Watertown and Groton; the emigrant was traced to Thomas Lawrence, of Rumburgh, in Suffolk, who died in 1471, who was to be affiliated to the famous family at Ashton, in Lancashire.

Here, however, critics say there is a fatal flaw in the pedigree, and as none of John's known ancestry used a coat of arms, he and his numerous descendants have not a right to any. There are errors in nearly all the Lawrence's pedigrees I have examined, and no doubt there are venal and unscrupulous persons who, for a reward, will draw out pedigrees and coats of arms, without care for their truthfulness or accuracy.

But no honest and honorable man will proclaim a pedigree or arms as his, which he knows or believes to be not his own, but some one else's.

In regard to the Massachusetts family of the Lawrences, I shall stand by what I have written as to that pedigree, and the personal character of

any members of that family has nothing to do with the connection of their published pedigree.

It would be, perhaps, unfair to confine this article to contradictions solely, and as so much has been written about the Lawrences of England lately, I will try to give some idea of what is known. I refer in these notes chiefly to the Visitations printed in Dr. Howard's *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica* and *The Herald and Genealogist*, both magazines published in London.

1. It is clear that the name of Lawrence, being simply a Christian name, is one borne by many families in no way related.

2. It is certain that there was a Sir Oliver Lawrence who married Ann, sister of William Wriothesley, Lord Chancellor and Earl of Southampton. This Sir Oliver died New Year's Day, 1559. For his descendants, see *Mis. Gen. et Her.*, pp. 201, 203.

3. There was a family at Withington and Sherdington, County Gloucester, traced to William Lawrence, who died in 1558. This is recorded in the Visitations (*Misc. G. et H.*, pp. 205-6-7, 233-7.

4. A family at St. Ives, County of Huntington, beginning with John Lawrence, buried at Ramsey, 1537, nephew of the last Abbot of Ramsey. An account of this family is given in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1815. To this family belonged Henry Lawrence, President of Cromwell's Council; a junior branch was of Enmith, County Norfolk.

5. A family at Hertingfordbury, County Herts (see "*Miss. H. et G.*," p. 212; "*Herald and Genealogist*," IV., 533), from 1500-1650, about.

6. Sir John Lawrence, of Iver, County Bucks, baronet, died 1632, grandson of Thomas Lawrence, of Chelmarsh, Shropshire.

7. The family at Rumburgh and Wisset, County Suffolk, traced by Mr. Somerby from Thomas Lawrence (will dated, 1471) to John Lawrence, who came to New England about 1635. This pedigree is printed in Bond's *Watertown*, p. 1080-1, and elsewhere. There are numerous other pedigrees to be found, but these seem the principal ones.

Now, it will be noticed that none of these pedigrees extend very far back. Yet it seems to be certain that there was a Sir Robert Lawrence, of Ashton, County Lancashire, whose grandson, Sir James Lawrence, married Eleanor, daughter of Lionel, Lord Welles. Her brother married Cecilia, daughter of King Edward IV., so that this family of Lawrence may fairly be ranked among the higher gentry. But this Sir James had an only son (or grandson) John, killed at Flodden, A. D., 1513, and the representation of the family passed to Lancelot Lawrence, of Yeland Hall. (See *Her. and Gen.*, iv., 531-2.) The writer of the article in *H. and G.*, here quoted, does not pretend to trace the Yeland Hall branch, and a Visitation of Lancashire, 1567 (*Mis. Gen. et Her.*,

p. 199) differs somewhat in regard to the junior branches. It may be assumed, however, that Lancelot Lawrence was the heir male. It is likewise thought that our Nos. 2 and 5 were connected; that is, that Sir Oliver was a brother of Richard of Hertingfordbury. The Visitations of Dorset, 1565, 1623, say that Sir Oliver was a seventh son, his next oldest brother being Henry L., ancestor of the Lawrences of Tisbury, County Wilts. Here we get on doubtful ground, for the same Visitation says that Sir Oliver's father was Nicholas, brother of Sir James, which affiliation must be wrong.

Stopping here for a moment, observing only that there is a break between the Ashton Hall stock and any others of the name, we will look at another attempt to connect a family with the main stem. This was the work of Isaac Lawrence, of London, great-grandson of William Lawrence, of Withington (our No. 3, *ante*). He was born in 1615, and was living in 1682. His wife was Grisel, daughter of Sir John Lawrence, bart., of Iver. A competent critic (quoted in *H. and G.*, iv., 530-5) says this Isaac *composed* a pedigree which was afterwards printed in Faulkner's *History of Chelsea*. One form of it is in the official Visitation of Gloucester, 1682 (*Mis. Gen. et Her.*, p. 206), where William (of Withington) is called son of John, the latter being nephew of Sir John, of Ashton. It may well be concluded that this was all a fabrication, and that the known pedigree must stop with William, who died in 1559, and whose overseer was Richard Lawrence, of Foxcote, a gentleman whose son got a grant of arms in 1570.

But it seems Isaac Lawrence, in inventing his own pedigree, made other errors. He states that Sir James Lawrence, of Ashton, not only had a brother Robert, who left issue, but another brother, *Sir Nicholas Lawrence, of Agercroft*, who married an heiress of — Moore, and had seven sons, the youngest being our friend Sir Oliver Lawrence.

Leave out the names Agercroft and Moore, and this agrees with the Herald's Visitation of Somerset in 1623, viz.: in stating that Sir James had brothers Robert and Nicholas, the difference being that Isaac traced to Robert, and Sir Oliver's descendants to Nicholas.

We may well believe these two affiliations to be the work of the heralds, and conclude that the Lawrences must for the present be considered distinct families, and none of them representing the old and noted Lancashire family.

For a verification of the foregoing statements, refer to the Geneological and Biographical Record, New York, 1872, by W. H. Whitmore, and others.

In closing my report I desire to make the following observations:

While my labor has not been productive of pecuniary profit, yet I think the result has been beneficial.

It may now be definitely taken as a fixed fact, that the so-called Lawrence, Chase, or Townley fund, does not exist, except in the fictions of traditions, and the hopes of the expectant recipients.

It was worth, however, much more than the personal outlay incurred by the individual members of this Association, to have settled once for all, in an authoritative manner, such a perplexing and delusive anticipation.

As your agent, having fulfilled my obligations to the best of my ability, this report is respectfully submitted by

Yours respectfully,

JAMES USHER,

New York City.

LAWRENCE GENEALOGY.

LAWRENCE GENEALOGY.

LAWRENCE GENEALOGY.

